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☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 45. WEEKLY EDITION. SEPTEMBER 20, 1873.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 11, 1873.

The New Refractory Telescope.

The new telescope manufactured by Alvin Clark & Sons, of Cambridgeport, Mass., for the Naval Observatory, has been successfully completed and is now daily expected here. The instrument is the largest refracting telescope in the world, having an object glass twenty-seven and one-half inches in diameter, and twenty-six inch aperture, with a focus of thirty feet. It will be equatorially mounted according to Fraunhofer's plan, with details specially designed for the instrument. It will also be fitted up with a clock movement and a sensitive micrometer. Its cost is fifty thousand dollars. The telescope will be placed in a new iron dome forty-one feet in diameter and forty feet in height, built expressly for it at the end of the south wing of the observatory building. The superstructure rests on a foundation of stone. The roof is supplied with a slip readily opened for observations. It revolves on conical wheels, and is easily moved horizontally in either direction by means of suitable gearing. The instruments will rest on a pier of masonry imbedded seventeen feet in the earth. The upper portion is of brick, surmounted by a capping consisting of a single stone eleven feet long and two feet high and wide. On the top of this is an iron support weighing eleven hundred pounds, to receive the axis upon which the telescope rests. Adjoining the dome are instrument rooms and sleeping apartments for observers. The new telescope is the largest in sophistry than in argument. In addition to the fuller presentation of his views, General Spinner nevertheless a few days since made a few remarks noticed. He says that the Thirty-fourth Congress indulged in a back-salary grab, and yet those of its members who took the back pay were subsequently elected Vice President of the United States. These facts, Simon Cameron, Colfax and Henry Wilson thinks that the cause of the indignation of the people now is that the thing has been repeated at too close intervals. The remedy is to make the increase of pay, holding the questionable position that all the Senators and Representatives are honorable men, to point to which conclusion the Credit Mobilier case. He winds up with the forcible statement, that to such an extent has this idea of economy been carried, that a nose butting ram of the fascias are able to hold office."

The Colored Men's Complaint.

A few leading colored men have started the cry that their race is not properly represented in appointments in the executive departments, an investigation made by order of one of the secretaries shows that in the branches they are fitted to occupy they largely exceed the proportion. The places of responsibility they have not yet shown ability. They fail on examinations, and when they pass they lack business qualifications. As doorkeepers and messengers, they have more than their share. There is no objection to appointing them in due proportion. It is their own fault if they cannot hold higher positions.

The Cruzible Balloon

would seem to be a failure, judging from the start. The charts requested with so much trumpeting, some weeks ago, are still in the Navy Department, never having been received, though the parties were notified of their readiness.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 15, 1873.

A number of Republican members of Congress from the West and the South, who have been in this city for some days, have, in talking of the Speakership, expressed the opinion that Speaker Blaine will be re-elected without opposition. The combination which was to have been formed on the Internal of Home Rule Democrats is generally regarded as having fallen through. In reference to the Credit Mobilier Congressmen it is assumed that the Democrats cannot afford to imperil his own prospects for the future by going to any extreme in Charismathy of important Committees. Since the late defeat of Gen. Butler, and in view of the fact that there is no good material remaining in the House, it is not believed that he will be assigned to any leading position on any of the committees.

Internal Improvement.

Since the organization of the Board of Public Works of this District, in 1871, 2,368 new houses have been put up.

Universalist Convention.

A National Convention of Universalists will assemble in this city to-morrow and continue in session for three days. The principal business to be transacted is the erection of a memorial church in this District.

An Irrigation Convention.

The Mormon rulers when taking up their abode in Utah devised a system of irrigation for that Territory which has become wonders in the way of fertilizing its soil. The other Territories suffer the same inconvenience as Utah from the want of rains, and, profiting by the example, wish to devise some proper method of irrigation. To this end a Convention, with this object in view, has been called to meet at Denver on the 15th of November, and several gentlemen from Colorado are now in the city endeavoring to secure the co-operation of public men and others here.

Letter Boxes in Street Cars.

The action of the Postmaster in Chicago in placing letter boxes in the street cars has been found to work admirably for the convenience of all classes, and it is probable that the same plan will soon be followed by the postmasters of the other large cities.

A Scientific View of the Hall Polar Expedition—A Letter from Dr. Peterman, of Gotha, the German Geographer—An Englishman Bottled Up—Valuable Geographical Results of the Expedition.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 13, 1873.

An important communication by the eminent German Geographer, Dr. A. Petermann, dated at Gotha, July 29, 1873, has been received at the Hydrographic office of the Navy Department. The communication relates to the North Pole expedition fitted out by the government of the United States, and commanded by Captain Hall. The document is quite lengthy. The following, however, is a comprehensive synopsis of the translation prepared at the Hydrographic office:

The United States North Pole expedition, of which authentic news has been only recently received, has attained a great success, in spite of all the hindrances and envious opposition made before and after its departure. Dr. Walker, an Englishman, who originally wished to accompany the expedition, but who withdrew at the last moment, has opposed it during its absence, and even published a pamphlet to discredit the undertaking, by trying to prove that nothing could be expected from it. [Globus, vol. XXI., 1872, pp. 343 and 352.] Language more pressing and illiberal than that of Walker can hardly be imagined, as, for instance, he makes Captain Buddington appear the most competent man of the expedition, while, in fact, he seems to have been the most unfit, and a drunkard. Indeed, the English have hardly had, for nearly nine years, and criticised freely all other opinions and endeavors, they themselves doing nothing at the while. Before the return, a verdict in absence of the expedition their criticisms were directed to the unfitness of Captain Hall; and when he died, they add that the Polaris was "wholly unsuited for ice navigation." [Markham in "Nature," May 29, Quarterly p 58.] Compared with these criticisms, the results and accomplishments of the expedition appear all the more significant, even in the United States.

THE SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS OF THE EXPEDITION

has at first not been properly recognized and valued, the undertaking having rather been looked on as food for sensational effusions. Some organs of the press who speculate more on the sensational-loving part of the great public, instead of trying to reflect the interest and just pretensions of science, sought to construct, from the death of the commander and separation of the crew, a mystery story of murder, poisoning, mutiny, desertion, &c.; assertions that could not at all be substantiated, as seen from the published official report of the United States Navy Department. The same voices, wholly lacking judgment of scientific matters, without further ado, acjudged the undertaking as a complete failure, they keeping in view that the reaching of the North Pole was to be the sole object, and, if every such undertaking has an aim, and this, of course, should be as high as possible, it must, however, not be lost sight of, that neither America nor Europe would ever contribute money for such objects if no important results or the pursuit of them would loom up in the prospective. Captain Hall would certainly have received neither ship nor $100,000 had he promised only what has actually been accomplished. But everybody rightly regards the highest aim as attainable for if that were not so it would, for instance, be wholly unjustifiable to sacrifice, time and again, human life and immense sums of money in the exploration of Africa. Or, as another instance, the German Reichstag has appropriated 50,000 thlr. for the observation of the transit of Venus without having at all the assurance that it can be successfully observed in the short time of its transit, or that perhaps the state of the atmosphere on condition of the sky may not interfere. If in such cases the chances must be taken for and against success, how much more must that be the case in the exploration of the Polar regions, where such a little calculable factor as the ice and ice navigation comes in?

While Dr. Walker prophested that the first season of the expedition would pass without any results whatever, because it had started so late, the Polaris, on the contrary, steamed through Smith sound and Kennedy channel, and through a new discovered strait, which was named Robeson channel, reaching as high as latitude 82 deg. 42 min. north, and wintering in latitude 81 deg. 38 min. north.

The highest latitude attained by any vessel before was 81 deg. 42 min. north, (north of Spitzergen, by the Swedish expedition on September 19, 1872,) and in the region of Smith sound, only 78 deg. 37 min. north, (Rensselaer harbor, Kane's winter quarters in 1853-55.) The northernmost winter quarters of Europeans was also that of the Swedish expedition, 1872-73, in Mossel bay, on the north coast of Spitzbergen, in latitude 80 deg. 42 min. north. Thus, as is seen, the American expedition having wintered still two degrees further north.

COMPARATIVE RESULTS

with those of the German North Pole expedition under Capt. Koldewey's command, it appears that Capt. Hall reached, with his vessel, nearly seven degrees further north than Capt. Koldewey, who reached only as high as latitude 75 deg. 31 min. north. Even to the high latitude of 82 deg. 16 min. north, seven degrees further north than that of which Koldewey and his companions spoke as an almost unattainable "polar bulk" for eternity," and "that it was their conviction no vessel will ever reach higher," their remarks will not apply. It was rather the fault of the actual nautical commander of the Polaris, Capt. Buddington, who, it would seem, did not possess interest nor devotion enough for the grand object, that the expedition did not attain a higher latitude. On his return Capt. Buddington will, no doubt, have to defend himself before the proper tribunal. At any rate, this case shows that interest, devotion and power of evidence are the most needed qualities for such undertakings. After Hall's death Capt. Buddington seems to have marred all by his unfitness, and by bringing all endeavors of the expedition to naught, in the same manner as in the north did who were left at Lifjord, East Spitzbergen, in 1870, or those who accompanied Payer and Weyprecht in 1871. The want of enthusiasm in Buddington was also augmented by a liking for alcoholic beverages, and by frequent drunkenness.

It is quite true that the latitude reached by the Polaris that is remarkable, but rather the peculiar nature of the Polar sea, where it was reached. It was through Smith's sound, Kennedy and Robeson channels, which are shaped like the neck of a bottle, and would seem to be a favorable reservoir for bodies blocking of ice. Experience also teaches that Smith sound is the most entirely adapted for the accumulation of immense masses of ice, by which, for instance, Kane and Hayes were debarred from going with their vessels further North than 81 deg. 22 and 38 min. This was also one of the reasons that caused me to urge the proposition to pursue North Pole expeditions almost exclusively in the open sea, although before Hall no suitable steamer had ever made a trial there.

But it is now proven that even in this relatively difficult and icy region it cannot be said that external circumstances alone will prevent the safe advancing in the vessel is the best means, and that sledge journeying is not to be considered.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED.

The short distance from Cairn Point to Cape Hawks (46 nautical miles) was made by Hayes and twelve men in sledges with over-human efforts in thirty-one days, while Capt. Hall's vessel made six times that distance in scarcely two days. The Polaris passed Port Foulke in latitude 78 deg. 17 min. 30 sec., on August 47, 1871, at 3:30 P. M., reaching Rensselaer harbor at 9 P. M. and Cape Frazer at 6 o'clock on the morning of August 28, where Capt. Hall and five men landed in a boat to examine the coast for a harbor. Steaming thence further north they encountered great masses of ice, yet they passed at 11 P. M. of the same day Cape Constitution, which is the northernmost point that was reached by Kane (1854) in sledges. On August 29, at 11 A. M., they passed by Cape Lieber, in latitude 81 deg. 38 min., and on the 30th, at 1 P. M., reached in latitude 82 deg. 16 min. north, or twenty-seven geographical miles further north than Koldewey, with the farthermost point of Hayes' expedition by sledges. Thus the Polaris made this distance in latitude 75 deg. 12 min. 30 sec. north to 81 deg. 38 min. north in 43½ hours, which, by the course steered, is equal to 46 nautical miles, or 53 land miles.

From Cape Lieber their progress farther north slackened in speed, yet already on the 3d of September they had reached the highest latitude, 83 deg. 16 min. north.

On this latter track the ship met heavy floe-ice and was fain also to contend with the strong northern winds; still, boats were repeatedly sent out to explore the coast. The Polaris then went back to latitude 81 deg. 38 min., and there she seems to have left winter quarters.

Under all circumstances, it must be conceded that this is the most important expedition that ever went to the North Pole. The British expeditions, from Baffin and Hudson bay to Behring's strait, they only reached as far as latitude 78 deg. 28 min. north. The great Swedish expedition (1872-73) which started with the special purpose to reach the North Pole in sledges, did not attain farther north than to the Seven Islands, latitude 80 deg. 30 min., and 81 deg. 45 min. north, when the ice was found too thin for sledge journeying. The experiences of this expedition appear to show that the hopes formed that the polar regions must not be undertaken with sledges, but in steamers, are illusory.

THE LAND DISCOVERIES OF HALL'S EXPEDITION,

it is seen from the report that they set foot on land as high north as 82 deg. 9 min., the highest latitude on this side of Greenland by human foot before being on Cape Isabella, in latitude 82 deg. 4 min., by Lieut. Lockwood, and Sergt. Brainard, on May 17, 1882, by Hayes. In latitude 82 deg. 9 min. they ascended an elevation of 1,700 feet, from which they saw land extending, as they believe, as far as latitude 84 deg. more north.

This latter discovery confirms my formerly expressed opinions, that Greenland extends northward almost to the pole, forming a large and continuous land or in islands. The finding of driftwood on Hall's island makes it appear still more probable that the land there is divided into islands, or that perhaps the small Robeson channel may afford the access for Asiatic drift-wood. This is estimated the occurrence of numerous musk oxen would seem to point to the conclusion that the land discovered, which the second German expedition explored up to 77 deg. north, is in uninterrupted connection with Hall's land up to 82 deg. 30 min. North.

Besides their decisive success, the expedition met with the most highly interesting results. Its able commander, Hall, who died in the autumn of the first year. In her second summer, on her return to latitude 82 deg. 3 min. north, the Polaris was beset with ice, and drifted down to latitude 77 deg. 36 min. north, where the crew, during a severe gale, were separated; ten white men and nine Esquimaux drifting off on an ice floe, and the remainder of the expedition, (among them Dr. Bessels, the naturalist; Dr. Bessels, Manch, Schuman and Sieman)—being on board the ship, which remained back for a second time on the Northumberland islands, in latitude 77 deg. 20 min. north. The nineteen persons on the ice floe drifted from latitude 77 deg. 36 min. to 80 min. from latitude 77 deg. 20 min., to latitude 53 deg. 4 min. north, near Newfoundland, where they were picked up by the steamer Tigress.

The length of the course of this ice-floe drift is not less than 1,500 geographical miles, (because the distance between Trieste and the North cape, or Stockholm and Aleppo, or Petersburg and Malta, or Tiflis and Lisbon, or Hollaind and Bagdad). The ice-floe drift of the Fanna party, (second German expedition,) from latitude 76 deg. 30 min. to 60 min., lasted nearly the same length of time, (five and a half months)—from October 19, 1869, to May 7, 1870 —when they had reached the coast of Frisia.

All of the nineteen persons of Hall's expedition remained alive and well, while the eighteen Norwegian fishermen, who had passed the winter in the ice fjord of Spitsbergen, (latitude 78½ deg. north,) in perishable huts, in February, it was proven that they had lived without knowledge or regard of sanitary restrictions, although abundantly provided with nutritious food, and with almost exclusively portion of salt meat, which acts like clear fire against epidemics. Consequently, while this catastrophe, therefore, should not at all interfere in the judgment of arctic explorations or conditions, of the safety and success of such expeditions, which wintered 1½ deg. further north than these men, only one man died of scurvy.

Calamities of this kind will happen to every exploring expedition, whether it be in the not or in the cold regions. Of the latter, those of explorers Buchholz, Reichenow and Lehder), for instance, the latter died very soon after he had separated and provided German Congo expedition came to naught in Sierra Leone and if one follows the register of African expeditions, one finds a list of deaths and calamities presents itself, which would in vain be sought in the history of the North Pole expeditions.

The drifting of the Polaris from latitude so degrees and 38 min. north to 53 degrees 4 minutes north is by instruction. It goes to show that it makes no difference, for a vessel to be beset, whether this occurs on the high sea or near the land. The nineteen persons of Hall's expedition, although drifting with the ice floe for 1,500 miles, met not one case south of Spitzbergen, although abundantly supplied by Irish fishermen. Scurvy did not reach its, and neither could the Hansa party in similar cases.

The European Arctic sea being clear of ice much further north, an exploring expedition in that region, if ice-bound, would also become free much further. In Hall's party the decrease of the ice from latitude 77 deg. 20 min. to 53 deg. north, or twenty-four and a third degrees of latitude, within ten days, between after a drift of only ten degrees of latitude. Further toward Spitzenbergen, and especially toward that of it, was already in the open channel as high as latitude 80 deg. north, or, in very unfavorable cases, latitude 75 deg. north; so that it is not to be supposed that it would unfortunately be beset with fire, it would, in all probability, get free again after a ten-degrees drift.

Here follows an able review of the official testimony taken under the supervision of the Navy Department, which the commercial will soon print.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL RESULTS.

So far as was possible the geographical results have been sifted, and it has been attempted to represent them in the annexed chart, for the construction of which the chart accompanying the report of the United States Navy Department ("Diagram or the Explorations of the Polaris, drawn by Sonder, Signal Service United States Army," scale 1,750,000) has been used. At the same time I availed myself of the opportunity to unite with it the official chart of Kane's and Hayes' expeditions, which, it would seem, is little known or noticed in Europe. This latter chart was published in the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," 1857, as an appendix to Schott's essay on Dr. Hayes' "Physical Observations in the Arctic Sea," and bears the title, "Chart showing the main coasts, track and observations of Arctic Exploring Expedition of 1860 and 1861, J. J. Hayes, M.D., commanding; newly projected from revised materials of discoveries." The submission is published by A. A. Schott, Assistant United States Coast Survey, Washington, D. C., January, 1860," published 1857, scale 1,260,000.

It had appeared too late to be used in the table of Geogr. Mitth. of 1860, and, therefore, all subsequent charts that have reference to Hayes' work have been quite unfortunately executed, the latest chart to which, however, attention has been called explicitly —(Geogr. Mitth., 1868, page 469.) In the nomenclature which differs greatly in different charts the names given in Dr. Hayes' work have been preferred.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

As soon as information had been received a Washington, the United States Secretary of the Navy, Robeson, with a correct estimate of the demands of humanity and science, ordered three vessels for despatch to the

1. The United States steamer Frolic, to Newfoundland, to bring the rescued party directly to Washington;

2. The United States steamer Juniata, to Disco, and, if practicable, to Upernivik, to establish there a depot of coal and provisions for the Polaris and its crew; as also to seek, if possible, with the aid of the Danish authorities in West Greenland, a communication with Northumberland island, where the Polaris' crew had been seen by the rescued crew,

3. The Tigress, the sealing steamer which rescued the ice-floe party, being especially built and fitted for ice navigation, was purchased by the government, and will proceed at once to Northumberland island. Captain Tyson and all of the rescued seamen will accompany this expedition, which is expected to leave New York about July 12.

Should, it is hoped, contribute towards bringing to an end the land talk of the English, and induce them at last to fit and send out an expedition in 1874.

A. PETERMAN.

GOTHA, July 29, 1873. DEB. R. R.

A CURIOUS table, made up by a Mr. Corey, of Herndon, Va., and published in the Washington *Republican*, puts the present campaign by the Democrats in Virginia in an almost ludicrous light. It shows that in 1870 there were of native Virginian "carpet-baggers" to other States, 549,834. Allowing one-fourth of those to have been born in West Virginia, the Old Dominion is responsible for 366,000. On the other hand, there are in Virginia only 46,921 natives of other States. At the same time Virginia has furnished to other States eleven members of Congress, and has received from other States seven members. If they can be counted in the Democratic column to-day, they will be entitled to all the chairmanships of committees.

Murder of Edwin S. McCook.

PARTICULARS OF THE TRAGEDY.

The General, Having Thrashed a Banker, is Shot by Him.

The Body to be Brought East Accompanied by Eminent Gentlemen.

WASHINGTON, September 12.—The following dispatch was received at the White House this forenoon:

YANKTON, DAKOTA, September 12, 1873.

To H. S. Grant, President of the United States:

General Edwin S. McCook was assassinated at a public meeting last night, by P. P. Wintermut, a banker, of this place.

(Signed) JOHN A. BURBANK, Gov.

SIOUX CITY, IOWA, September 12.—General E. S. McCook, Secretary of Dakota, was shot through the breast last night at Yankton, by P. P. Winstermut, and died this morning at seven o'clock. McCook attempted to enter the Court room, where a railroad meeting was being held, and was met at the door by Wintermut, who, after some high words, drew a pistol and shot McCook, the ball entering near the left shoulder, severing an artery. The latter then seized Wintermut, who dired two more shots without effect. In the struggle both fell to the floor and were separated by friends. McCook was carried to his room at the St. Charles Hotel bleeding profusely. A consultation of physicians pronounced the wound fatal, and, still preserving consciousness, McCook gradually sank till the hour mentioned.

But little is known of the origin of the difficulty. It is generally supposed to be a long standing feud in regard to the railroad bonds voted by Yankton county. Wintermut is now in custody. Considerable excitement exists and there are some threats of summary vengeance.

YANKTON, Dak., September 12—Last night an altercation occurred between Gen. E. S. McCook, Secretary of Dakota, and P. P. Wintermut, a banker of this city, in the billiard parlor at the St. Charles Hotel, during which Wintermut used insulting language which was promptly resented by the General, who gave Wintermut a thrashing. The General then went to his room. Wintermut, washing the blood from his face, remarked to bystanders that McCook could whip him, but that Wintermut would shoot, and immediately went five blocks, got a pistol and returned. A railroad meeting was in session in the hotel at the time, and Wintermut entered the assembly. McCook, unaware of his presence, also entered the room, when Wintermut rushed and approaching, fired his pistol, the shot taking effect in the left breast. The General grappled the assassin when the second shot was fired, and Wintermut was thrown to the floor. During the struggle two shots were fired, one of which proved fatal. The General lingered till 1 A. M., when he expired. He was fully conscious to the last and died like a brave man. Wintermut is under arrest. The city is shrouded in gloom and flags are flying at half mast. Not one thing, but a struggle for supremacy, and to be lynched, but coolest counsels prevailed. The body is dressed in the uniform of the General, which he wore during the war. The coffin is draped in the United States flag and a large concourse of citizens will escort the body to the depot, from whence it will be forwarded by special train to the friends in the East, accompanied by Governor Burbank and other distinguished gentlemen.

ZEPHYRS OF THE LAKE.

Wreck of the Steamer Ironsides—Six Schooners Ashore—A Chance for More Definite Information.

DETROIT, September 15.—A severe southwest gale prevails over the upper lakes. The steamer Ironsides, of the Milwaukee and Grand Haven line, is reported ashore on the south side of the mouth of Grand Haven. The sea is so heavy that nothing can go out, and it is feared all hands are lost. It is not known how many passengers were on board. Six schooners have gone on the beach at Grand Haven since morning.

LATER, 2:40 P. M.—Three of the Ironsides's boats have reached the shore with twenty-three persons. The other boats have not reached land.

LATER—FURTHER PARTICULARS.

GRAND HAVEN, MICH., September 15.—The propeller Ironsides, of the Detroit and Milwaukee line, with the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, and one of the largest steamers of the lakes, foundered and ran ashore on the south side of the harbor. The signal of distress was hoisted at nine o'clock this morning, but so terrible was the sea and heavy wind that no assistance could reach her. She struck in the trough of the sea from about 8:30 A. M. until 11:30 A. M. The passengers and crew, of which there were nineteen of the former and thirty of the latter, prepared the boats to leave the vessel, and the first three boats have left her at 11:30 A. M. When the last boat had got about a quarter from her she went down. Her boats were five boats filled with the crew and passengers. One boat having five men and four women in capsized just as it was entering the harbor. Her boats have reached the shore up to this time. The boat with Captain Sweetman and wife and five passengers has not been heard from since 11 A. M., when they are among the lost. Thirty-two passengers are known to be saved. Two hundred tons of wood have been recovered. The following is a list of those lost or saved: Captain Sweetman, wife and daughter; John Driscol, steward of the boat; John Helins, of Milwaukee; Chas. Wimmell, agent of C. E. Harling & Co., Chicago; Mrs. Wm. Hall, wife of the mate of Milwaukee; O. S. Donaldson, Grand Rapids, Wisconsin; J. B. L. Dewitt, of Milwaukee; balance not yet identified.

The following is a partial list of the saved as far as can be ascertained: Mrs. Hall, wife of the mate; Watkins, clerk of the boat; O. Klinger, Sam. Williams, Alex. Fraser, Detroit. Mrs. Fraser, of Detroit, and the occurrence of numerous musk oxen would seem to point to the conclusion that the land discovered, which the second German expedition explored up to 77 deg. north, is in uninterrupted connection with Hall's land up to 82 deg. 30 min. North.

Besides their decisive success, the expedition met with the most highly interesting results. Its able commander, Hall, who died in the autumn of the first year. In her second summer, on her return to latitude 82 deg. 3 min. north, the Polaris was beset with ice, and drifted down to latitude 77 deg. 36 min. north, where the crew, during a severe gale, were separated; ten white men and nine Esquimaux drifting off on an ice floe, and the remainder of the expedition, (among them Dr. Bessels, the naturalist; Dr. Bessels, Manch, Schuman and Sieman)—being on board the ship, which remained back for a second time on the Northumberland islands, in latitude 77 deg. 20 min. north. The nineteen persons on the ice floe drifted from latitude 77 deg. 36 min. to 80 min. from latitude 77 deg. 20 min., to latitude 53 deg. 4 min. north, near Newfoundland, where they were picked up by the steamer Tigress.

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Here follows an able review of the official testimony taken under the supervision of the Navy Department, which the commercial will soon print.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL RESULTS.

So far as was possible the geographical results have been sifted, and it has been attempted to represent them in the annexed chart, for the construction of which the chart accompanying the report of the United States Navy Department ("Diagram or the Explorations of the Polaris, drawn by Sonder, Signal Service United States Army," scale 1,750,000) has been used. At the same time I availed myself of the opportunity to unite with it the official chart of Kane's and Hayes' expeditions, which, it would seem, is little known or noticed in Europe. This latter chart was published in the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," 1857, as an appendix to Schott's essay on Dr. Hayes' "Physical Observations in the Arctic Sea," and bears the title, "Chart showing the main coasts, track and observations of Arctic Exploring Expedition of 1860 and 1861, J. J. Hayes, M.D., commanding; newly projected from revised materials of discoveries." The submission is published by A. A. Schott, Assistant United States Coast Survey, Washington, D. C., January, 1860," published 1857, scale 1,260,000.

It had appeared too late to be used in the table of Geogr. Mitth. of 1860, and, therefore, all subsequent charts that have reference to Hayes' work have been quite unfortunately executed, the latest chart to which, however, attention has been called explicitly —(Geogr. Mitth., 1868, page 469.) In the nomenclature which differs greatly in different charts the names given in Dr. Hayes' work have been preferred.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

As soon as information had been received a Washington, the United States Secretary of the Navy, Robeson, with a correct estimate of the demands of humanity and science, ordered three vessels for despatch to the

1. The United States steamer Frolic, to Newfoundland, to bring the rescued party directly to Washington;

2. The United States steamer Juniata, to Disco, and, if practicable, to Upernivik, to establish there a depot of coal and provisions for the Polaris and its crew; as also to seek, if possible, with the aid of the Danish authorities in West Greenland, a communication with Northumberland island, where the Polaris' crew had been seen by the rescued crew,

3. The Tigress, the sealing steamer which rescued the ice-floe party, being especially built and fitted for ice navigation, was purchased by the government, and will proceed at once to Northumberland island. Captain Tyson and all of the rescued seamen will accompany this expedition, which is expected to leave New York about July 12.

Should, it is hoped, contribute towards bringing to an end the land talk of the English, and induce them at last to fit and send out an expedition in 1874.

A. PETERMAN.

GOTHA, July 29, 1873. DEB. R. R.

A CURIOUS table, made up by a Mr. Corey, of Herndon, Va., and published in the Washington *Republican*, puts the present campaign by the Democrats in Virginia in an almost ludicrous light. It shows that in 1870 there were of native Virginian "carpet-baggers" to other States, 549,834. Allowing one-fourth of those to have been born in West Virginia, the Old Dominion is responsible for 366,000. On the other hand, there are in Virginia only 46,921 natives of other States. At the same time Virginia has furnished to other States eleven members of Congress, and has received from other States seven members. If they can be counted in the Democratic column to-day, they will be entitled to all the chairmanships of committees.

The Trans-Allegheny Canal.

Details of the Cumberland Convention.

Interesting Statistics from Capitalists.

The New Route Necessary and Practicable.

Adjournment of the Convention Subject to the Future Call of the President

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

CUMBERLAND, MD., September 11, 1873.

The Convention called to meet at this place yesterday has closed its session, and the delegates have dispersed to their homes full of the enthusiasm which seems likely to carry the canal-extension project to the desired success. In addition to the report of the proceedings of the Convention, published in yesterday's COMMERCIAL, additional details are herewith presented:

The Convention, having perfected its organization by the election of officers, was addressed by Hon. Montgomery Blair, the President, as follows:

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT BLAIR.

In announcing the object of the meeting, Mr. Blair said that the friends of this great highway knew the object of coming here, and it was not necessary for him to add much. There was a National occasion—an assembly to promote the internal improvement of the country involving the best interest of a number of States, not merely of Maryland, nor Pennsylvania, or you from Ohio. This is not the conception of to-day, but was conceived by the Father of his country himself. The State's great grandfather, Christopher Gist, conducted Washington over these mountains to the West. He hoped he would be pardoned for this allusion. The Father of his country figured in this region. There was a difference of $2 50 per ton between the transportation of coal East-ward by rail and water. Between the latter millions of tons were consumed in the East for gas alone. There would therefore be a difference of $40,000,000 annually in favor of the water route. In two years the East could build the canal and not feel it.

Mr. Blair then briefly reviewed the movement which resulted in the present canal convention. He immediately organized. Right Worthy Deputy Grand Sire A. C. Richards, of Baltimore, acted as the chair in the absence of the Most Worthy Grand Sire C. A. Logan, who is at present abroad as United States Minister to the Republic of Ecuador. After prayer by the Right Worthy Grand Chaplain, Rev. T. W. Valentine, of Keokuk, the Deputy Grand Sire addressed the body, stating that he had been called most unexpectedly to preside, and explained the absence of the report of the Committee on Finance and Grand Lodges and thirty-five Encampments are represented in the Convention. The number of lodges of the order at the close of the year 1872, was 5,042 and members 850,000.

On reassembling, a resolution was adopted that the Grand Secretary, James L. Ridgley, be and he is hereby appointed historiographer for this body. Wise counsels prevailed. The Grand Lodge will exercise all powers, and perform all duties, devolved upon the Grand Encampment, and a new Odd Fellowship, and in addition thereto to write or cause to be written a history of Odd Fellowship. A request of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, that the next annual communication of grand lodges be held at Atlanta, Georgia, and also one from the Grand Encampment and Grand Lodge of Indiana, that it be held at Indianapolis, were laid on the table. Reports were submitted from the Grand Lodges of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas; also several communications from the order in Germany. The sessions of the Grand Lodge were ordered to be from 9 o'clock A. M. to 12:30 P. M., and from 2 to 4 P. M., each day. Adjourned.

Manchester of America, and all along the route industry would be stimulated and wealth increased.

Mr. E. C. Pechin, President of the Dunbar Iron Works, next addressed the Convention. It had been asserted that the slackwater would end at Connellsville. This was erroneous, they could slackwater to Confluence, and by following the Castleman till it strikes the hills leave but thirty-five miles of canal to be built. In 1871 the production of Connellsville coke was 14,000,000 bushels. Two railroads have been insufficient to carry it away. With a cheap and easy transportation they could greatly increase the production of coke and extend that branch of industry indefinitely. What would be the result of the building of the canal? It would have a steady supply of ores, coal and coke which would be astonishing. Cheap iron could only be secured by cheap transportation. There would be no trouble with regard to payical difficulties, and he thought none would be met with in Congress. He urged earnest work and predicted bountiful success.

Mr. Gorman, by request of several delegates, spoke briefly on the importance of the supply of water at the Summit. He read from the report of Gen. Barnard showing that over than the water would be abundant to make the canal navigable during the entire boating season. At the Summit 120 boats could be locked through in a day, with a large surplus of water.

Dr. Frank Cowan, whose interest in this scheme has never flagged, and whose efforts towards its successful prosecution have been largely instrumental in bringing it to public notice, took the floor and in a few remarks—half humorous, half serious—indicated the value which the connection would be to Maryland and Pennsylvania. The distance from Pittsburgh to Connellsville was sixty miles—say forty. Taking five miles on each side of the river, and you have an area of four hundred square miles, or 256,000 acres. Suppose the value of this land has increased in value one dollar per acre by the sure prospect of a water outlet, and you have $256,000 subscribed to the canal fund. Suppose the increase in value to be five dollars, and $5,280,000 are already pledged to the building of the much needed improvement.

Hon. John Ritchie again spoke, congratulating the Convention on the result of the work of the Committee appointed in the morning, and promising his hearty support to the measures recommended.

The resolutions were then read in full and adopted, and the chair appointed the following Committee to carry out the recommendations contained therein: Hon. Montgomery Blair, Hon. George A. Pease, Hon. John W. Ritchie, Hon. Lloyd Lowndes, Hon. W. W. Hoffman, A. P. Gorman, Co. B. S. Heath, J. J. Hamlet, Gen. James Belger, Gen. Thomas Kenly, Hon. John Hamill, M. Bannon, W. W. McKeag, Judge A. N. Wilson, Frank Cowan, Coy. Henry D. Cooke, A. R. Stoppleford, Wm. M. Murtagh, James G. Barnes, James Harlan, Capt. N. J. Bigley, Chas. A. Dravo, J. B. Watkins, Gilmore Meredith, E. C. Pechin, &c.

Hon. Patrick Hamill having presented his views on the subject of the route to be adopted, and stated his preference, the Convention passed the following resolves:

Resolved, That this Convention tenders its thanks to the Board of Trade of Cumberland for the hospitalities extended to the delegates while in this city.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad Company for the free transportation from Pittsburgh to Cumberland.

Resolved, That the object of the Convention and all the friends of the enterprise here represented is due to Dr. Frank Cowan for the zeal and interest he has taken in the work, and the success which has resulted in so much prospective benefit to the commerce of the State, and not alone of monopolies that struggle for the New York control of the canals within its borders. Like Pittsburgh there is a determination to make the Convention the three roots which had been projected in its interest, and which will be realized.

Resolved, That the Convention now adjourn to meet at the call of the President.

The Convention was a success in more than one respect, but the most important was the fact that charity alone has $17,000 to expend in the erection of additions to free schools, and paid nearly or quite $100,000 to war expenses, for

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1873.

THE Iron Association held a meeting Wednesday, and after considerable discussion it was resolved not to make any change in the present card rates.

THE Nail Association met Wednesday and advanced the prices of nails 12½ cents per keg, all round. The meeting was largely attended. The market indicates a further advance. The new card rates will be found in to-day's COMMERCIAL.

QUITE a number of Democratic papers are now engaged in bringing WILKES BOOTH, the assassin of President LINCOLN, to life again—probably with the ultimate view of placing him before the country as the Bourbon candidate for the Presidency.

REPORTS from the agricultural districts of the country state that, generally speaking, the farmers are in a much better condition, financially, than they have been before in years. Is it not about time for the Granges to begin to check their complaints—or turn them in other directions?

TENNESSEE is rapidly becoming Republicanized. She has just placed herself fairly in line with educational progress, by inaugurating a free common school system, born of her own experience and the best thought of those of her citizens who have devoted themselves to removing that ignorance which is the nursing-mother of Democracy.

A DEMOCRATIC contemporary which would seem to be desirous of abolishing the Ninth Commandment, complains that Senator MORTON, in his recent speech at Dayton, Ohio, "lost his temper and permitted himself to accuse Judge THURMAN of lying." And *proved* it too—that paper should have added; for therein is contained the pith and pungency of the whole matter.

THE Missouri *Republican*—which originated the 'possum policy of last fall—considers the most singular and conclusive symptom of the dying condition of the Democracy, to be the violent and pains-taking efforts of some of the organ to *prove* that it is *still alive*. Numerous interesting examples of this laborious supereragation are daily furnished by the *Post*.

THEY are just beginning to find each other out. The "Liberal" papers are vieing with each other as to which can say the most evil of the Democratic party; while the organs of the latter, in turn, are ransacking the whole vocabulary of disgust and contempt for terms in which to express their feelings with regard to their late political bed-fellows. Let the unveiling proceed.

A BOURBON sheet published out West has an article on the "Approach of the Millennium." This would certainly indicate the final and irrevocable overthrow of the party one of whose organs that paper is; since we are told on excellent authority that the dawn of that better day is to be ushered in by the binding of the Devil in chains for a thousand years.

HERE is a hint which may possibly be of service to the Democracy. A recent writer on Japan states that the people of that country make no distinction between moral and mental science, and very little between ethics and etiquette. To them education *is* morals. A cultured man, in their opinion, of necessity a moral man. Perhaps, if the great educational need of Democracy in this country were supplied, the fulfilment of the other want might in course of time follow.

THE New York *World* is now undertaking to reconstruct the Democratic party on a free trade basis; its efforts in that direction being seconded with much frank courageousness by the platform-makers of the party out West. In this State they do not dare go so far; their exhibition in order lately, of a timid desire creeping in the rear of their braver and more virile fellows, and timidly pronouncing their destructive purposes to be "sound in principle."

WE FEAR that, in one particular at least, the Chicago *Times* does the Pittsburgh *Post* injustice. Either this, or it labors under a grave misapprehension. The *Times* evidently considers the *Post* to be a "Protectionist" paper; whereas the fact is that it "heartily and cordially" indorses the Wilkesbarre manifesto, which in its turn heartily and cordially indorsed the platform of the Ohio Free-Traders as "sound in principle." How, then, can the *Post* be a "Protectionist" paper? All is to be hoped the *Times* will observe the necessity of making an *amende honorable*.

"NEVER," enjoins an old Jamaica proverb, "make the goat trustee for the breadnut tree." A liberal paraphrase of this pithy injunction, as applied to Pennsylvania interests, would read thus: Never make the men who publicly indorse the free-trade Democratic platform of Ohio as "sound in principle," political trustees for the countless industries and activities which, under the protecting influence of our present policy, have given and are still giving wealth and prosperity to our State. Nor will the people do so.

THE New York *Tribune* plaintively inquires "what is to be said of the men who are morally incapable of obeying the injunction which comes in a physical sense from the policeman—the order to move on?" Well; we should advise them to enroll themselves among the Democracy—if, that is to say, they are desirous of having the company of other men. Otherwise, at least, the Democratic party is the most popular institution of which we have cognizance, for the reception of such incurables.

"WE think Longstreet about the meanest of all who held command in the Confederate army"—*Post*.

When General LONGSTREET surrendered his arms, he surrendered, with them, the secession ideas and doctrines out of which the rebellion grew, and on which the South relied for justification. He has since deported himself quietly, orderly, and as becomes a citizen who recognizes the paramount authority of the National government. In the estimation of the *Post* this would seem to be a heinous offense. Possibly JEFF DAVIS's course is more to its liking.

THE last end of Democracy in Ohio threatens to be worse than the first. Only about four weeks of the canvass remain, and the prospects of the party are every day becoming more sombre and gloomy. Last year the party was defeated by upwards of thirty-seven thousand votes, and this year the Republican majority bids fair to be considerably heavier. The vital earnestness—the sense of individual responsibility—which characterizes the action of our political friends in that State, should everywhere be rivaled by the Republican voters of Pennsylvania. It is time for them to don the harness.

THE *Nation* thinks the Democracy will presently learn "that their *old* name and their old organization is about as useful to them as a convict's striped clothing would be in an application for a bank clerkship." The *Nation* fails to probe the heart of the matter. The trouble with the Democracy is internal but internal; not in incidentals, but in essentials. Disguise its outward appearance as it may, it cannot escape itself. "Which way"—soliloquized SATAN once—"shall I fly ?"

"Which way *I fly* is hell, myself am hell;
And in the lower depths, a lower deep,
Still threat'ning to devour me, opens wide,
To which the hell I suffer seems a heaven."

CAREY, the "horny-handed" blatherskite, who recently told the British people he was for abolishing all custom houses and inaugurating absolute free trade, is making Democratic speeches in the strong protection districts of Ohio. The papers of that State, however, do not chronicle many conversions under his ministrations. Possibly he might meet with better luck in Pennsylvania. Suppose the Wilkesbarre platform builder, who believe the free trade resolutions of the Ohio Bourbons to be "sound in principle," were to invite him to set forth the necessity of repealing the existing tariff laws, before the people of the manufacturing strongholds of our own Commonwealth ?

THE rebel General WADE HAMPTON, with other rebel officers and their Democratic Northern allies, have persistently accused the Union soldiery of wantonly plundering and firing the City of Columbia, South Carolina, after it had surrendered to them. General SHERMAN has now set this slander at rest by presenting an array of incontrovertible facts, which prove that the rebel cavalry, just before leaving the city, were guilty of the very outrages which the Union soldiers are accused of. The case may now be looked upon as definitely settled. The principal importance of the evidence adduced lies in the fact that it completely absolves the United States government from all pecuniary responsibility to foreign owners of the burned property. Several millions of dollars were at stake.

A RURAL Kentucky paper of the Bourbon persuasion, in speaking of a successful agricultural fair lately held by the colored people of its county, at which nearly two thousand dollars was distributed in premiums, naively adds: "The whites felt too poor to attempt a fair this year." The unconscious flavor of satire which inheres in this remark is absolutely delicious. Here is a people whom that paper and others of its class have always despised and contemned as beings of an inferior order, setting examples of creative energy, enterprise and thrift, to the very persons who have maligned and persecuted them; while these latter, notwithstanding the manifold advantages, material and otherwise, which they possess, are compelled to acknowledge themselves outstripped in progress by those whom they lately held as chattels.

PARTIES IN FRANCE.

In France political discussion and agitation are as lively as ever while the antagonistic parties seem more uncertain than ever respecting the outcome of their exertions and the tendency of events. M. JOHN LEMOINNE, the most influential of the republican journalists who lately denounced the folly and violence of his party, and at last appeared to renounce its fellowship in favor of a monarchical alliance, has written another article in which he expresses dissatisfaction with the declarations of the Duke of CHAMBORD. In thus writing M. LEMOINNE is the spokesman of the many Frenchmen who, in despair of order and peace under a republic, would be willing to accept HENRY the Fifth, if HENRY the Fifth would pledge himself to maintain the rights and liberties of the people as established since the Revolution. So much was for a time believed to have been promised preliminary to the alleged reconciliation between the Duke of CHAMBORD and the Count of PARIS. But at present all is again uncertainty, it being confidently denied that the former has made even the smallest concession in favor of popular liberty or popular prejudices. In response to the suggestion that such concessions were necessary and expected, the Duke is now represented to have said:

"I am not a candidate for royalty, but I am a principle of government. If France desires the government which I represent, and which is the only government I can give her, then I am at her command, and I am willing to treat with the Assembly at Versailles, which is the legal organ of the nation. If, on the contrary, France merely desires merely a monarchy of circumstance, destined to legalize revolutionary tendencies and to oppose to them a temporary dike which the next generation will overthrow, it is useless to call me. I will know that I have no unpopular principles, that those principles are my strength, my reason of existence, and I can not enter into a fundamental covenant with what I consider as error, as the cause of the derangement of France."

Clearly enough with a prince who thus looks at himself and his destiny it is simply impossible for either Orleanists or the more moderate Republicans to make any satisfactory terms upon which reliance may be safely placed. HENRY the Fifth is resolved to retain his purely fictitious title, unless he can secure recognition as an absolute monarch, as a King by right divine.

A good deal of what M. LEMOINNE, in the dispatch contained in the COMMERCIAL of yesterday, calls "the ambiguity of the situation" is the result of the course pursued by President MACMAHON, by cunning people naked simplicity himself often appears in the garb of their distinguishing trait, and the direct, manly and upright bearing of the Marshal has all the effect of consummate shrewdness in puzzling and confounding the political wrigglers by whom he is surrounded.

The monarchists do not allow him for a day to forget that he occupies a position like that of General MONCK, that by a word he may if he pleases save France from the degradation of republican rule, and that they confidently regard him as in full sympathy with their plots and plans, and ready when the time shall arrive to execute them. The President on the other hand, says little or nothing, quietly does his duty and exercises only the power placed in his hands by the Assembly. And the Republicans cannot help seeing that if he meditates other designs, and intends to restore monarchy in disregard of the popular will he is taking the best means to do it. President GRANT has from the first taken a lively interest in the matter, and has repeatedly referred to it in his messages, and at length the Washington government has devised a plan from which if carried out the best results may be expected. In brief, this plan contemplates the *conclusion of treaties* with the great sea-faring powers for the appointment of agents for the protection of immigrants at sea. Upon every vessel conveying three hundred or more persons, one of these agents shall be placed in the recognized character of a protector of the passengers, authorized to mediate between them and the captain of the ship and to defend their rights and interests. It is further proposed that in this country the railway companies shall be legally compelled to forward the immigrants in as expeditiously as the regular trains, instead of consulting their own convenience as at present. Overcrowding to be forbidden also. Another feature of the plan provides for the indemnification of immigrants by railway companies for injuries sustained through the recklessness of employees. At present where immigrants are concerned such injuries are never compensated. How should a poor Swede or German, just arrived in the country and with no settled home, compel a railway company to do him justice? With a fixed penalty of, say $5,000 for a death—injury, and with a government agent to make the collection and pay it over to the injured person or his or her family, the case would be different. Let us trust that Congress will adopt the plan.

THE Pittsburgh *Post* is respectfully informed that the COMMERCIAL—not being afflicted with any of the numerous ailments from which that paper suffers—is neither "stupid" nor "disingenuous." Referring to our recent exposure of its ludicrously audacious attempt to disguise the statements made by Southern papers of its own political stripe concerning the material prosperity of Louisiana and South Carolina, it coolly says:

"The position of the COMMERCIAL is simply this: If the people are prosperous in money matters—if they have plenty of work and plenty of money, all questions of the right of self-government are mere nonsense."

This is a deliberate misrepresentation of "the position of the COMMERCIAL." Does the *Post* mean to assert that the constituted Republican authorities of South Carolina and Louisiana were not duly and legally elected by a majority of the people of those States? Does it possess sufficient hardihood to indorse the recently discovered astounding frauds of GEORGE W. TAYLOR, ENERY and his gang in Louisiana, or to intimate that the colored voters of South Carolina, who compose the bulk of the Republican party there, are not entitled to the right of suffrage? If this is not the meaning of its otherwise vapid verbosity, in the name of specificality what is ?

Vicksburg nurse girls have taken to racing with carriages, and having recently adopted the hurdle variety, several babies have been killed.

A GREAT EVIL AND ITS REMEDY.

Comparatively few persons have any notion of the aggregate suffering endured by immigrants of various nationalities on the way between their homes in the old world and their homes in this country. On shipboard they are often at the mercy of brutal captains and mates, who treat them as if they were brutes; and the imperfect provisions made for the conducting and management of passengers made by shipowners have long been a matter of common notoriety. Thus, in consequence of insufficient room, insufficient and bad food, and cruel treatment on the part of skippers and their subordinates, the entire time of the voyage is frequently a prolonged season of suffering to thousands of people, many of them too ignorant of the world or else too poor either to find or even to seek redress for the wrongs they have endured. These wrongs are not committed exclusively on shipboard. In their railway journeys from the coast to the interior immigrants are often oppressed in the most reckless manner. Not knowing a word of English, not able to comprehend anything said to them, they have no alternative but to submit to whatever treatment they may receive from the coarse and arbitrary functionaries who sometimes run the trains to which they are consigned. How cruel the tender mercies of those sublime dignitaries often is no reader needs to be informed. For years the subject has been talked about on both sides of the Atlantic, and various measures of relief have been proposed, but nothing effectual has yet been done to remedy the evil. President GRANT has from the first taken a lively interest in the matter, and has repeatedly referred to it in his messages, and at length the Washington government has devised a plan from which if carried out the best results may be expected. In brief, this plan contemplates the *conclusion of treaties* with the great sea-faring powers for the appointment of agents for the protection of immigrants at sea. Upon every vessel conveying three hundred or more persons, one of these agents shall be placed in the recognized character of a protector of the passengers, authorized to mediate between them and the captain of the ship and to defend their rights and interests. It is further proposed that in this country the railway companies shall be legally compelled to forward the immigrants in as expeditiously as the regular trains, instead of consulting their own convenience as at present. Overcrowding to be forbidden also. Another feature of the plan provides for the indemnification of immigrants by railway companies for injuries sustained through the recklessness of employees. At present where immigrants are concerned such injuries are never compensated. How should a poor Swede or German, just arrived in the country and with no settled home, compel a railway company to do him justice? With a fixed penalty of, say $5,000 for a death—injury, and with a government agent to make the collection and pay it over to the injured person or his or her family, the case would be different. Let us trust that Congress will adopt the plan.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 16, 1873.

Financial Condition of the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad.

The Mayor of Baltimore has just informed the City Council that so early as the 13th of June last he received a communication from Mendes Cohen, Esq., President of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, now styled the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad Company, informing him that the said company would be unable to pay the interest on its second mortgage bonds, held by the City of Baltimore, due on the 1st day of July, 1873, and soliciting the indulgence of the city. It appears that when the five million dollars mortgage was created, the company thought it would be enough to liquidate the floating debt and finish the construction and equipment of the road. The indebtedness was, however, found to be larger than appeared upon the books, and the cost of the completion and restoration of the road far exceeded the estimates of the engineers. Moreover, the severity of the past winter, while largely decreasing the revenue, added greatly to the expense of maintaining and operating the road. The company, therefore, finds itself embarrassed by a floating indebtedness of more than three and a half millions, with less than two and a half millions of second mortgage bonds available for its liquidation. The company states that it has not, both either to corporation or individuals, any portion of the interest due on the bonds.

The California Elections.

Interested politicians here continue to figure up the complexion of the new California Legislature, with reference to the selection of United States Senator. The general impression is that it will be impossible to draw party lines with any degree of strictness between Booth and Casserly. It cannot as yet be said who has the best show.

Gov. Kellogg of Louisiana

is now North with several of his associates in the State government. One of the principal objects of his visit is said to be an endeavor to secure the aid of Hon. Thos. Scott in certain large railroad enterprises designed to promote the property and develop the resources of Louisiana.

Preparations of Voters.

The citizens of Pennsylvania who are in government employ here are already making their arrangements to go home to vote next month.

The Appointment of Mr. Shepherd Governor of the District of Columbia—Approval of the Action of the President—Old Time Notions—An American Koenigsstuhl—A Capital and Not an Agency—Letter of Resignation of Gov. Cooke—The President's Reply—Approval of the Course of the Board of Public Works—Circulars for Information Respecting Steam Boiler Explosions.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 15, 1873.

The action of the President in appointing Alexander R. Shepherd governor of the District of Columbia, to succeed Henry D. Cooke resigned, is admitted by all to have been the wisest selection that could have been made in view of the peculiar circumstances of the case.

Though the city was originally laid out on a scale adequate to the necessities of a metropolis of more than half a million inhabitants, the crude ideas entertained by subsequent statesmen respecting the future growth of the city, and the necessity for its moderate Republicans to make any concessions upon which reliance may be safely placed. HENRY the Fifth is resolved to retain his purely fictitious title, unless he can secure recognition as an absolute monarch, as a King by right divine.

A good deal of what M. LEMOINNE, in the dispatch contained in the COMMERCIAL of yesterday, calls "the ambiguity of the situation" is the result of the course pursued by President MACMAHON, by cunning people naked simplicity himself often appears in the garb of their distinguishing trait, and the direct, manly and upright bearing of the Marshal has all the effect of consummate shrewdness in puzzling and confounding the political wrigglers by whom he is surrounded.

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The Pittsburgh *Post* is respectfully informed that the COMMERCIAL—not being afflicted with any of the numerous ailments from which that paper suffers—is neither "stupid" nor "disingenuous." Referring to our recent exposure of its ludicrously audacious attempt to disguise the statements made by Southern papers of its own political stripe concerning the material prosperity of Louisiana and South Carolina, it coolly says:

"The position of the COMMERCIAL is simply this: If the people are prosperous in money matters—if they have plenty of work and plenty of money, all questions of the right of self-government are mere nonsense."

This is a deliberate misrepresentation of "the position of the COMMERCIAL." Does the *Post* mean to assert that the constituted Republican authorities of South Carolina and Louisiana were not duly and legally elected by a majority of the people of those States? Does it possess sufficient hardihood to indorse the recently discovered astounding frauds of GEORGE W. TAYLOR, ENERY and his gang in Louisiana, or to intimate that the colored voters of South Carolina, who compose the bulk of the Republican party there, are not entitled to the right of suffrage? If this is not the meaning of its otherwise vapid verbosity, in the name of specificality what is ?

Vicksburg nurse girls have taken to racing with carriages, and having recently adopted the hurdle variety, several babies have been killed.

FIRE IN CHICAGO.

Two Hundred Houses Destroyed—Great Excitement Among All Classes—People Removing their Household Goods—Loss from $250,000 to $300,000.

CHICAGO, September 19.—A fire started in the hay depot of the Burlington and Quincy Railroad, corner of Newberry avenue and the railroad track, in the West Division, and is burning in a northeast direction, having already passed diagonally across same four blocks to a point about one and a half miles distant in a straight line from the Court House in the center of the city. The locality where it originated is built up almost entirely with wooden buildings, mainly dwellings of the smaller class, and the fire must have already inflicted a great amount of damage upon the families living in that quarter, many of whom are of the poorer class. There is continued excitement among all classes of people. The locality of the fire and the direction of the wind presenting nearly the same conditions as those of the great fire of two years since. Many people living in the line of the fire are packing up their household possessions and removing to greater safety. The point where the fire started is about half a mile nearly due south from the point where the great fire of October, 1871, originated.

4:40 P. M.—The fire broke out about three o'clock in the lumber district, near the corner of Seventeenth and Halsted streets, and has been burning ever since with the greatest fury, having spread over at this hour a distance of nearly a mile. The wind is blowing a gale from the southwest and carrying burning brands a long distance in advance of the fire. The entire fire department is on the ground and doing everything possible to stay the advance of the flames. There is considerable excitement among the people.

A late dispatch says: The fire is finally under control, and notwithstanding the strong wind blowing from the southwest, no other danger is apprehended. The people to whom the fire came the nearest, and highest, moved their goods from their houses several blocks away, are now moving back. The loss in the aggregate is quite light for the space burned over not above two hundred houses having been destroyed. The loss to the poor people rendered homeless, however, is severe. The prairie westward of the fire is covered with household goods.

THE LATEST.

The total loss by the fire this afternoon is estimated at $250,000 to $300,000. Total number of buildings destroyed is placed at sixty-four only, one of which, the packing house of Richard M. Oiner & Co. was of brick, the rest being wooden tenements two stories or three stories high, occupied mainly as residences and stores or shops and residences combined. The fire originated as stated in a former dispatch, in the lumber yard situated next to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and Northwestern Railroad Companies, for storage and transfer of hay and situated on the corner of Newberry avenue and the railroad track, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets. One end of this shed was open and the fire caught from a spark which flew into it from the burning train. Almost before an alarm could be sounded the entire shed was in inflammable condition, and was a mass of flames, there being at the time a stiff breeze blowing. The fire spread with great rapidity, and scarcely arrived on the ground before the fire had spread to a row of wooden houses on the north and east sides of the shed, which were the first to be attacked street. A second alarm was now struck and soon after a third, which rallied to the scene the entire fire department, which went to work with a courage and energy which challenged the admiration of all who witnessed it. In the meantime the streets in the line of the fire literally swarming with people, burdened with their household goods, which they were trying to place in safety. Vacant lots west of Halsted street were soon covered with household goods, and as fast as they were adverse to any expenditure other than to establish here a simple place of meeting for the representatives of the States—a sort of central agency, where the ministers resident in Washington might be stationed, and where Congress might come once a year or oftener, as the exigencies of the times required to transact the business entrusted to them by the Constitution, mainly to pass laws, appropriate money, levy taxes, declare war, ratify treaties and confirm nominations. On the left bank of the historic Rhine, below the ruins of the feudal castle of Marksburg, and opposite the village of Rhense, the oldest town on the river. Immediately below, on the very brink of the stream, and apart from the habitations of men, is still to be seen the famous though rude rostrum or temple known as the Koenigsstuhl, or King's seat, inclosed within a small circular wall, and overhead entirely open to the air. Here, in the early ages, the German electors assembled to deliberate upon the affairs of the empire, to consider any acts of common import, to make treaties, and to nominate or depose the Emperors. Washington for a long series of years was viewed in the light of the Koenigsstuhl of the United States. Most of the laws passed from the time of the accession of a party national in its character and broad in its views, has at last brought the people to look upon Washington as the political metropolis of the country. The present contested view is recent, dating no farther back than 1870. It was not till 1870, however, but three years ago, that Congress placed the city in its real attitude as a Territory, with a form of government suited to its size and importance.

With this new state of affairs has come improvement worthy of the greatness of the Republic of forty millions of people. Party spirit, envy, and malice or ignorance about the steps which are now with high hand being taken to conduct preparing a great property holder would have the improvements restored to their original condition. Outside of the limited area which has undergone such a lack of judgment and discretion with regard to the character or location of the improvements, the changes which have been under the Board of Public Works, of which Mr. Shepherd was the Vice President, are in every mind. For the President to have appointed any one but Mr. Shepherd would have been equivalent to a condemnation of the whole Board, and of the new Governor, and as such he exercises the real power will be the first to approve the course of the Board, whether right or wrong.

The following letter of resignation of Mr. Cooke and reply of the President is important, as indicating the approval of the course of the Governor and Board of Public Works by the President of the United States:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, September 10, 1873.

His Excellency U. S. Grant, President:

DEAR SIR: I beg to tender my resignation of the office of Governor of the District of Columbia, to take effect on Saturday next, the 13th inst.

I am urged to this action by the fact that the combined opposition of the press and portion of my public duties have been so exacting that I am no longer able to perform both as fully as the law demands as thoroughly as I could wish. Yet it has been my sincere purpose so to administer the government of the District as best to promote the welfare of the people of all classes, and to advance the national capital to that position which it ought to occupy as the seat of the national government.

This purpose has been ably seconded by the other officers of the District government, and Washington is now resolved to issue a call upon those who may be conversant with facts bearing upon said subject to forward such information to the Commission.

The following will probably cover most of the questions and inquiries entertained by scientists and engineers on the subject:

First. Explosions caused by the gradual increase of steam pressure.

Second. Those caused by low water and overheating of the plates of the boiler.

Third. Those caused by deposit of sediment or incrustation on the inner surfaces exposed to the fire.

Fourth. Those caused by the generation of explosive gases within the boiler.

Fifth. Those caused by electrical action.

Sixth. Those caused by the percussive action of the water in case of rupture of boiler in the steam chamber.—Clark and Colburn theory.

Seventh. Those caused by the water being destroyed of its air.

Eighth. Those caused by the spheroidal condition of the water.

Ninth. Those caused by the repulsion of the water from the fire surfaces or plates.

As it is the purpose of this Commission to institute experiments to test the truth or fallacy of these various theories they would be grateful to receive any communications you may see proper to favor them with upon the subject, and to which they will earnest attention, as their desire to bring to bear upon this important question all the experience of data, and all scientific opinions that will give light in aid of the solution of the same.

All communications to be addressed to

GEORGE W. TAYLOR,
Secretary U. S. Experimental Commission,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

These letters will be sent to persons suggested by the members of the Commission. DeB. R. K.

The cranberry crop of Wisconsin promises a very large yield this year. Advices from that quarter state that some large and productive marshes heretofore inaccessible have been opened up this year by the building of railroads so that the crops can be nearly all gathered. The yield in Massachusetts and other Eastern States is also reported to be much larger than usual.

Veterans of the Cumberland.

THE ANNUAL LOVE FEAST.

Friendly Greetings and Fraternal Fellowship.

Scenes of Battle and Bivouac Revived.

BRILLIANT GALAXY OF MILITARY CELEBRITIES.

Address of Welcome by Governor Hartranft.

Poem by Colonel Richard Realf.

Oration of Gen. Durbin Ward.

Speeches by President Grant, Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Hooker, McDowell, Blair, Governor Hartranft, Chaplain Christie, &c., &c.

The seventh annual re-union of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, was opened in this city Wednesday, under the most happy and auspicious circumstances. At an early hour the streets began to be thronged with strangers and citizens, the work of decoration was vigorously prosecuted, and hundreds of flags, festoons, and other ornamental devices were added to those already profusely exhibited on all the principal thoroughfares. The weather was cool and calm, and the day was for the most part sunshiny, although there was a slight haze of murkiness of the atmosphere not uncommon for our smoky city. As the day wore on, the streets became fuller and fuller of people, until it seemed as if the whole city, with the regions round about, had turned out to do honor to the heroes of the old Army of the Cumberland.

ARRIVAL OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

His Excellency Governor Hartranft arrived at four o'clock in the morning, and was escorted to the Monongahela House by the Reception Committee. He was accompanied by Gen. J. W. Latta, Philadelphia; Major A. Wilson Norris, General L. W. Read, Norristown; General D. E. Hastuger and Charles S. Greene, Philadelphia; General F. S. Stambaugh, of Chambersburg, Pa.

General W. T. Sherman, Commander of the Armies of the United States, arrived on the Cincinnati express train, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, at nine o'clock. The train was forty minutes behind time, but the crowd waited patiently until the arrival. General O. M. Poe, Chief Ordnance Officer; General S. Burbank, of New York, and other distinguished army officers, also arrived on this train. The Great Western Band headed the Committee of Reception, and as the General passed into the carriage provided for him, he was greeted with cheers. General Sherman was accompanied by Captain Christie, headed the Military Committee, and C. P. Duff and George Chalmers, Esqs., represented the Committee of Councils on the part of the city. A procession was formed, and the distinguished officers were escorted to the Monongahela House.

AT THE MONONGAHELA HOUSE.

Large numbers of our most prominent citizens thronged the corridors and parlors, and the calls upon, and introductions, to Generals Sherman and Sheridan, Governor Hartranft and other eminent soldiers, were numerous and continuous. The rooms occupied by these gentlemen were constantly thronged, until half past ten o'clock.

The Military Display.

The non-arrival of General Grant, and the lateness of the hour at which General Sherman arrived, greatly interfered with the military parade, which, according to the programme, should begin at half past nine. The

NATIONAL SALUTE

was fired by Knap's battery, on the levee, Between Smithfield and Wood streets, beginning shortly after ten o'clock. This was the signal to fall into line, and at about half past ten o'clock the column began to move, passing down Smithfield street to Water, to Wood street to Fourth avenue, thence along Smithfield street to Fifth avenue, and along Main street to the point in which the fire started, can't be ascertained, but is said prosaic fact that the carelessness of a man on the track of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad was burned.

Several conflagrations occurred during the progress of the fire. The Assistant Fire Marshal was severely burned about the face and had to be carried out. Blazing brands that fell upon him from one of the houses. Frank Rowe, foreman of the Hook and Ladder Company, was also severely injured by a fall. He was rushed to the Mercy Hospital, where

latest generation, swear to preserve forever Liberty, Fraternity and Union.

Finding the heat uncomfortable while delivering his address, Gen. Ward, to the amusement and applause of the audience, removed his collar and neck tie, and unbuttoned his vest, when he remarked "that the temperature here is about as warm as I used to find it in the field sometimes." (Applause.)

Gen. Ward's address was warmly applauded at the conclusion and the band struck up

"The Star Spangled Banner."

GEN. GRANT SPEAKS.

There was now a general call upon Gen. Grant, and when he arose the applause was almost deafening. He addressed the assemblage as follows:

Gentlemen of the Army of the Cumberland, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It affords me great pleasure to meet again so many of my old comrades. I never had the pleasure of a command with you but I had the pleasure of being immediately connected with your distinguished leader who has added so much luster and glory to the army of the Cumberland.

Urgent calls were made for Hooker, and amid the wildest enthusiasm the veteran came forward supported by a cane. He said:

Mr. President, My Comrades of the Army of the Cumberland, Gentlemen and Ladies:

I do not rise to talk; I merely rise out of courtesy to calls upon me. I have been celebrating for some time, and am almost exhausted on account of it. You should let me off this time. (Laughter, and cries of go on.) There are a few remarks, however, that I desire to make. The inter-remarks of the able orator of the evening strike me as of the most importance. He speaks of the national celebration—not geographical. Now, I have just been celebrating the anniversary of the capture of the city of Mexico, and there I forgot the limits of battle ground over. Now, why can't we fight the battles of the Rebellion over again with good feeling. Are they not our countrymen? I have fought them, and they are the hardest devils to beat I ever heard of. You may search the wide world over, and you can't find their equal. In the battles of the Rebellion I visited Europe and seen the French, German, Austrian and other armies, but I was kindly killed. Mr. Dick, engineer of the freight, and Mr. Beckett, fireman, were somewhat injured, but not dangerously. Mrs. Wilhelm, of Indianapolis, was the only person injured on the passenger train, and she escaped with a slight cut in the head. Myers, the fireman of the express, was slightly scalded. Greene resided at Altoona, and leaves a wife and children.

THE OIL TRADE.

Large Increase in Receipts of Crude and Shipments of Refined.

The following statistics of the oil trade, during the past eight months, show a very healthy increase in the volume of business, compared with the same period in 1872. The prices, however, are not so favorable:

	Bbls.
Receipts of crude—	
January 1 to September 6, 1873	1,969,504
January 1 to September 6, 1872	841,140
Increase in 1873	428,365
Shipments of refined—	Bbls.
January 1 to September 6, 1873	567,154
January 1 to September 6, 1872	517,474
Increase in 1873	49,280

Prices of oil—

September 6, 1873, at Pittsburgh, crude	3½@3¾¢
September 6, 1872, at Parker's, crude	$1 12
September 6, 1872, at Pittsburgh, crude	8¾@8½¢
September 6, 1872, at Parker's, crude	$3 25
September 6, 1873, at Pittsburgh, refined	13½@13¾¢
September 6, 1872, at Pittsburgh, refined	29 @29½¢

THE IRON TRADE.

Receipts of Metal and Ore for the Past Eight Months.

The receipts of pig metal and iron ore, at this port, for the eight months ending September 1st, show a very large increase in this branch of trade, compared with the same period of 1872. The following are the figures:

	Tons.
January 1 to September 1, 1873	422,952
January 1 to September 1, 1872	331,704
Increase in 1873	191,251

At this rate, the showing at the end of the year will be a very creditable one for our manufacturers and consumers of pig metal.

The sales of pig metal for the week ending yesterday were 6,180 tons, against 1,499 tons sold during the preceding week.

MORTUARY REPORTS.

Deaths in Pittsburgh and Allegheny.

The reports of the number of deaths in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, for the week ending September 14th, are given below. It will be observed that in this city there have been but 88 deaths, against 70 the previous week—a decrease of 12. This is not so favorable a showing as for the week ending August 31st, when the decrease was 30. In Allegheny we have 24 deaths reported for the week, against 28 the preceding week. It will be observed, by the weekly list given below, that the week just closed shows fewer deaths, in the aggregate, in both cities, than has occurred in any one week since April 26th, excepting only the week ending June 15th, when there were but 63 deaths in both cities.

PITTSBURGH.

Dr. W. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, reports that the total number of deaths in the city, for the week ending September 14, were 58. Of these 26 were males, 32 females, 56 white, and 2 colored. The causes of death were, as follows: Cholera infantum, 10; consumption, convulsions and scarlet fever, each 4; marasmus, 3; capillary bronchitis, diarrhœa, sporadic dysentery, acute enteritis, typhoid fever, and inanition, each 2; accident, burning, asthma, asphyxia, acute bronchitis, carrhœa of liver cerebritis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, diphtheria, chronic enteritis, gangrene, valvular disease of the heart, congestion of the lungs, inflammation of kidneys and unknown, each one.

The ages were: Under 1 year, 6; between 1 and 5, 8; between 10 and 20, 7; between 20 and 30, 4; between 40 and 50, 3; between 50 and 60, 2.

THE WEEKLY DEATH RATE.

The following table shows the number of deaths reported each week, in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, since the first of April last:

Week ending	Pittsburgh.	Allegheny.	Total.
April 5	62	31	93
April 13	70	32	98
April 20	60	34	104
April 27	76	26	102
May 4	60	23	83
May 11	67	23	74
May 18	77	33	110
May 25	82	15	97
June 1	71	20	91
June 8	83	25	79
June 15	43	20	63
June 22	78	24	102
June 29	79	28	107
July 6	97	53	150
July 13	91	55	146
July 20	105	42	147
July 27	104	44	148
August 3	105	51	156
August 10	106	58	164
August 17	108	23	131
August 24	108	39	147
August 31	78	25	103
Total, 5 months	1,778	711	2,489
September 7	70	28	98
September 14	58	24	82

THE RED MEN.

Statistics of the Order—Moral Tone of the Delegates.

The Great Council of the Improved Order of Red Men of the United States, which recently met at Wilmington, Delaware, had a very pleasant session. A grand banquet and an excursion to Fort Delaware formed an agreeable part of the programme.

The Great Incohonee, James F. Riely, in his annual address, made some flattering allusion to the growth of the order during the past year: "Our order has been very prosperous since the last session of the Great Council. A number of Tribes and Great Councils have been instituted, and I think we can fairly anticipate a large increase at least, that our council fires will be burning in every State and Territory of our Union."

In his annual report, the Great Chief of Records, Young Hyatt Smith, states that there has been a most rapid increase in the order, and then submits the following statement in support thereof:

The Great Keeper of the Wampum reported his receipts for the year at $7,513 36 and his disbursements at $6,663, leaving a balance in hand of $850 56. Additional receipts increase this sum to $1,606 38.

The Wilmington *Commercial* thus speaks of the moral tone of the delegates: "As is customary with all society organizations, the Improved Order of Red Men underwent in its infancy an ordeal of dissipation at its annual reunions which was not pleasant to the contemplative. Here in this city, surrounded by temptations, shipboard excursions, and a rapid increase in the order, and then submits the following statement in support thereof:

"The Committee on Finance has found the United States in 449, with a membership of 34,258. During the past year there have been 3,402 members, 3,704 suspensions, 214 expulsions, 262 reinstatements, 346 persons were admitted by card, and 503 persons withdrew by card. The whole number of deaths have been 314. There are 122 P. G. S., and 2,079 P. S. The number of new Tribes instituted during the year was 94, while but 8 Camp-Fires were extinguished.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1873.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 28th 1872.

WESTERN papers say the present autumn is an astonishing season for snakes. It is a very bad time for the variety known as copperheads, though.

"How to purify politics" is the subject of an elaborate article in the Missouri *Republican*. Bury the Democratic party, and thus get rid of a pestilential stench.

"The question before the people of Dauphin county is not one of temperance or moral reform."—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

Who ever supposed it was—with the Democracy?

A BOURBON sheet, discoursing on the alleged profligacy and degeneracy of the times, says: "The dead, at least, are honest." Then Democracy has undergone a thorough transformation. But we had thought that, as the tree falls, so it lies.

THE Beaver *Conservative* revives the exploded charge that General ALBRIGHT accepted bounty as a private soldier when he was Colonel of a regiment. This lie was fully exposed last year; but a lie is as good as a truth, any time, to a Democratic editor, and this one will, doubtless, go the rounds again.

IN 1868, a Presidential year, we carried Maine by 20,000 majority on a full vote; in 1869 we carried it by 10,000 on a light vote. In 1872, on a full vote, our majority was 16,000; in 1873, on a light vote, it is 12,000. It is plain, therefore, that we have done quite as well as usual in Maine this year.

QUININE, calomel and screws, are among the "monopolies," which, according to the New York *World*, are denounced by the Ohio Democratic platform. It is no wonder. The two former failed to save the party while living, and the latter enter into its coffin now that it is dead. What corpse can be expected to be saved with its undertaker?

A WRITER in the *Financier* thinks we ought to rid ourselves of the last vestige of "the iniquitous sham and swindle known as protection" before we exhibit ourselves to all the world in 1876. The *Financier* is the recognized organ in this country of British free traders and their American dependants and hangers-on. This accounts for the milk in that cocoa-nut.

"EVIDENCES," says a leading Eastern journal, "multiply as rapidly as it is possible to desire that England's sceptre over the iron consumption of the world is being transferred to us." So rapidly it would seem, for the Democracy of Pennsylvania—the State whose prosperity, of all others, is irrevocably bound up in the development of her iron manufacturing powers and resources—since whenever the Free Trade Bourbons of Ohio take snuff, the standard-bearers of the affiliating party in our own State, sneeze.

THE Dauphin County Democratic Convention passed the usual resolutions against monopolies, &c., and then nominated for the legislature Mr. WM. B. WILSON, who is and for years has been in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. With FRANK HUTCHINSON, the representative of the Fort Wayne road, at the head of the ticket, and WILSON beside him, the Democrats of Dauphin county can thank Heaven that, in voting for such candidates, they have done their level best to put down the railroad monopolies.

THE gossamer-like lightness of the burdens which the tax-payers of Pennsylvania would have been called upon to bear, should Democracy ever succeed in obtaining control of the administration of the affairs of the State, may be inferred from the fact that, by an incontrovertible display of official figures, it is shown that taxation and expenditures have increased, in Bedford county, under the control of that party, in the last ten years, more than *ten fold*, or over one thousand per cent. This is something which the voters of the State would do well to remember.

THE Democratic party in Illinois would appear to be well-nigh extinct. At the election of last year there were forty-five counties which gave Democratic majorities. In only twelve of these have the Democrats made nominations this year. In sixteen they have formally disbanded their organization; in eight the Democratic vote which, previous to 1872, was expected to do nothing except disband, and in the remaining nine counties the situation is uncertain. Moreover, one of the farmers of that State caught twelve specimens of the *Mephitis Americanus* in a trap the other day, and killed them.

THE temperance people of Chicago are wise in their generation. They are beginning to discontinue their crusade against beer, and are waging war against adulterated liquors, hoping to secure the passage of an ordinance for the destruction of all poisonous liquors sold as a beverage, and the appointment of a rigid inspector to carry the law into effect. Such a movement, being in the right direction, will be likely to receive so powerful a sanction from all parties, that the law could be enforced, thus doing away with the most odious feature of the traffic. A similar plan might probably be pursued with advantage elsewhere.

EX-Special Commissioner of Statistics, DAVID A. WELLS, who is at present in England, toadying to the free trade manufacturers of that country, asserted, in a recent public address, that "Protection is bringing ruin upon the United States;" notwithstanding the notorious fact that we are consuming less of the products of other countries and exporting more of our own than at any former period in the history of the country. Perhaps it is not to be wondered at that our avowed free traders should pretend to believe the silly falsehood; but it does seem passing strange that a body of men, presumably of character and intelligence, and claiming to be solicitous for the advancement of the industrial and material, as well as the political, interests of Pennsylvania, should be found willing to sanction the lie by writing their official indorsement across the face of the free-trade platform of the Ohio Bourbons. Yet, such a body *was* found. It called itself the Democratic State Convention.

DR. WILMER WORTHINGTON, late Secretary of the State Board of Charities, died at his home in Westchester on Thursday last, aged 69 years. The Philadelphia *Press* says of him:

"He was one of our old-time leaders, and was contemporaneous with the great men of the great county in which he was born. He filled many public positions with honor. He was one of the most popular physicians of Eastern Pennsylvania for nearly fifty years, and by his fine manners and pure character won universal esteem. He was a Democrat many years, and led his party in every contest till 1856, constituting all which is excellent ornasty and quiet logic, but like thousands he broke all political ties when slavery threatened the Union. As a Republican he was powerful and popular. He was a man of singular personal charms, and added to rare sweetness of temper true dignity of character."

DR. WORTHINGTON was a member of the House for several years from Chester county, beginning in 1833, and took an active part in establishing our present school system. He also served six years in the Senate, from 1863 to 1869, and was Speaker in 1869. He was esteemed very highly by all those who served in that body with him, and won the hearts of all by his unaffected gentleness and his unbending integrity. The State, in losing him, has lost one of her best citizens.

THE OCTOBER ELECTION.

It is but four weeks from to-morrow to the October election; and what are our friends in this county doing? Those of the County Committee; but what steps has it taken to rouse up the Republicans? There is a Naturalization Committee; but is it attending to its work? And there is a Committee on Registration; but we cannot hear of its action in any direction. There is a deal of work to be done; and there are plenty of men to do it; but each seems to be waiting for the other to begin soon.

The Committee on Registration cannot be gin too soon. The assessment lists, in the two cities particularly, need instant attention. They should be scanned closely, and every name not on the lists should be promptly and properly brought to the notice of the Assessors. Voters who have paid their taxes, within two years, but whose names are not on the lists in the wards into which they have moved can, it is true, vote without being assessed; but it is a troublesome and annoying process, and the easy as well as the sure plan is to get on the Registry list in season. We hope this Committee on Registration will at once address themselves to the important task of looking after this matter, and save themselves from the reproach of negligence and inattention.

Then, where are the local vigilance committees? Not one has yet been appointed. Why? No local work can be effectively done without them, and no time should be lost in getting them announced. We beseech the County Committee to have these committees appointed, announced and put to work.

The Republican party in Allegheny county is strong; but its strength is in the perfection of its organization. It can very easily fritter away its strength by neglecting its organization. If it is to help in winning a great victory this fall, it must brush up its armor and don it for active work. We can have a glorious triumph, but not without organized work. The County Committee is the center for all this work, and to it we must look for whatever is to be done. It is composed of good men and active workers; and to them we appeal to go to work at once and make such provision for getting out the Republican vote as will make our victory, in county and State, certain beyond the possibility of doubt.

"GRACE AND VIRTUE."

Neither in the annals of the Western frontier nor among the authentic traditions of the California mines would it be possible to find an incident more atrocious, or more indicative of the "wild savagery" sometimes lurking in civilized men, than the lynching of CHARLES KELSEY, in one of the most ancient villages of the United States, and within forty miles of New York city. In thus characterizing the incident we refer not merely to the circumstances of the crime, but to the manner in which it has been looked upon and dealt with by the the population of the place. KELSEY belonged to one of the old families of Huntington when last Thursday, nine months after his disappearance, his mutilated remains were buried among the dust of deceased ancestry, the tombstones of some of them showed that they had been dead nearly two hundred years. A quite venerable antiquity even on Long Island! CHARLES KELSEY seems never to have been a popular man. He was not beautiful. One of his shoulders was higher than the other, his eyes were dull and wandering, and his voice was of the kind called falsetto. However, he was a man of some property, and intellectually he was not only fairly endowed, but had received a good education, and in the ordinary affairs of life was able quite well to hold his own with his neighbors. As regards his morals, it is perhaps enough to say that he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and active in connection with its Sunday school. Such a man, no matter how deficient in the graces or in good looks, *might* have been expected to get on reasonably well and finally merit a laudatory epitaph. But, unfortunately, KELSEY fancied himself a poet and a fine writer, and though arrived at the mature age of forty, having fallen in love with a young lady, a Miss JULIA SMITH, a member of the same church, he foolishly persisted in persecuting her with his letters. Distinctly made to understand that neither the lady nor her friends approved of his addresses, he still continued them, not only in letters and poems, but by attempts to see her, and even the knowledge that Miss SMITH had formed an engagement of marriage with a Mr. SAMMIS, of New York, had no other effect upon KELSEY than to make him prosecute his suit more assiduously than ever. He disbelieved or affected to disbelieve the well known fact of the engagement, and day after day, in elaborate letters, urged the lady to grant him an interview. Then, presuming or pretending to presume that his request had been complied with at the time designated, went to her residence as if to fulfill an appointment.

Among neighbors and acquaintances sympathy for the person thus annoyed, and indignation at her persecutor were naturally the more violent because she had no male relatives, her only guardian being her grandmother, MRS. OAKLEY, with whom she lived. At length, one night a party consisting of five or six men in masks, by means of a letter, real or forged, from Miss SMITH, decoyed KELSEY into Mrs. OAKLEY'S grounds, where they first stripped and then tarred and feathered him, and in that condition exposed him to the derision of the family called out to behold the punishment of their persecutor. After that night KELSEY was no more seen in Huntington, and the people interested were divided into two antagonistic parties by the question of his fate. One party held that he had fled voluntarily from the scene of his disgrace; the other party, including his relatives, professed the belief that those who tarred and feathered him had put him forever out of sight to avoid prosecution and punishment for their act. In support of this view they alleged the word of KELSEY himself, who said that he had unmasked, recognized and threatened two of the rioters, a Mr. BAKER and ROYAL SAMMIS, Miss SMITH'S betrothed.

The lynching took place on the 4th of November last year, and the fate of the outraged man remained a mystery until about two weeks ago, when a portion of the body of a human being was found by some fishermen floating in Oyster Bay near the village of Huntington. Though the head was wanting, the remains were completely identified as those of KELSEY by only two tar and feather fathers still adhering to them, but by a watch chain recognized as his property found in the trowsers pocket. Moreover, the condition of the body proved that it had long lain in deep water, and had therefore been held down by weights purposely attached to it. Hence, there is hardly any room for doubt that the tarring and feathering was followed up by murder, but this conclusion is still to be legally investigated.

The most singular part of the "sensation" still remains to be told, which is that the Presbyterians of Huntington are even now not unanimous in condemning the outrage or in abhorring its perpetrators. Of course we do not mean that any of them would sanction or apologize for murder, but in the fierce partisanship aroused by the affair, almost an entire congregation, while denying the murder, exercise little reserve in defending the lesser crime. So much might be inferred from the discourses delivered at KELSEY'S funeral, and witnesses on the ground state that among the members of the party it is difficult to find anybody who will not frankly or with little qualification maintain the justice of the act. They say the man deserved to be tarred and feathered, and in justification of the judgment they point to certain features of his conduct which we have not mentioned. They say that his letters to Miss SMITH were sometimes grossly indecent. Letters of such a character are indeed produced, but the dead man's friends deny that he ever wrote them. If he did write them, they would, under the circumstances, seem to imply nothing less than frenzy, and might well suggest even to infidels some other mode of treatment than that adopted by the pious people of Huntington.

It is, we trust, unnecessary to say that we do not thus refer to the subject in any scoffing spirit. In fact, the incident is only one of many within easy memory which justify even secular journalists in directing attention to the deplorable results of inconsistency between practice and profession. During the war Mr. LINCOLN used to thank God for the churches, and we believe that it is only a small minority of Americans who in ordinary times fail to recognize the moral, social and political benefits resulting from the various religious organizations of the country. Still skepticism is being rapidly diffused, and one powerful influence in producing it is the degree in which people who profess to be religious fail to exemplify a morality higher or more refined than might fairly be looked for from merely rational motives. Even skeptics, if sensible and fair minded, despise vulgar cant as hypocrisy which is only suspected upon slight evidence or none at all; but where large numbers of persons make strict religious professions, and at the same time involuntarily display a low standard of morality, the adverse impression is irresistible. Prominent clergymen, as well as laymen, of the Methodist Church frankly acknowledge the mischievous effect upon the world produced by the manner in which the charges against the managers of the Book Concern were last year disposed of, and within the last few weeks millions in the West have been scandalized at the participation of important Boards of another powerful religious denomination in the compounding of a felony, paying $27,000 and guaranteeing impunity to thieves for the recovery of two hundred thousand dollars' worth of bonds. In an age in which high morality is often associated with religious skepticism, religion is promptly recommended in all cases unless those who have already accepted it prove by their words and actions the power of their faith to raise them above those vulgar passions and sordid temptations which even mere rationalists constantly master.

PAPISTRY AND POLITICS.

Recent reports concerning Prince BISMARCK'S growing unpopularity are not confirmed by the testimony cited in the COMMERCIAL of yesterday that at the unveiling of the Victory column, at Berlin, on the anniversary of the battle of Sedan, "the most electrifying popular ovation of the day was accorded to the great chancellor." Indeed, it may reasonably be doubted whether BISMARCK could make himself unpopular, at least among his Protestant countrymen, by his services have been so transcendant and his name is so intimately associated with the events of the last ten years that, whatever he may do or refuse to do, the feeling with which he is regarded by the people can hardly be changed. Some of them may criticise or even revile his measures, but his presence recalling vividly the memories of the past will most likely always revive the sentiments indissolubly attached to his person in the popular mind of Prussia. On such an occasion as the anniversary in question emphatic expression of admiration and gratitude in recognition of BISMARCK was in fact so essential to the decorum and effect of the scene that it would probably have been formally provided, if it had not been spontaneously offered.

It is, however, still true that among the masses of the Catholic population and among high church Protestants of the empire, BISMARCK'S ecclesiastical policy is not looked upon with more favor than formerly. The old Catholic party does not appear to increase rapidly, and Catholic bishops who adhere to the Papacy display remarkable unanimity in either actively or passively resisting the government. Those dignitaries who take the former course are a small minority of the ruling body of the church, and one may suspect that their position may have been determined partly by natural traits, such as excessive pugnacity or a longing for martyrdom, and in part by counsel proceeding from superior authority. Fond of and skilled in conflict they are most likely put forward to try the policy of opposition. Monsignor LEDOCHOUSKI, Archbishop of Posen, and the Prince Bishop of Breslau are conspicuous among these combatants. The former of these ecclesiastics has boldly denounced the Berlin government as a cruel and relentless persecutor, which meditates nothing less atrocious than to compel all Catholic priests to suspend their functions, and thus to deprive the people of all the consolations of religion. He besides ordered daily prayer to be offered for the deliverance of the church. With this order the government did not see fit to interfere, but as the Archbishop positively refused to consent to the inspection of his theological seminary at Posen by the proper government officer, and also appointed a priest over a congregation without the sanction of the President of the district, the government shut up the seminary and prosecuted him for violation of the law. The Archbishop has the better opportunity both for annoying the government and for producing extensive agitation, as the population over which he rules largely consists of Poles in whom the sentiment of Polish nationality is still strong. The outcome of the prosecution remains yet to be seen. Ordinarily the bishops who resist the government do it by declining, when a vacancy occurs in the charge of a congregation, to make an appointment, thus leaving the people without a priest and throwing the odium of the failure upon the government. Of course those who thus act welcome the imposition of fines and the withholding of salaries as additional grievances, especially if the people in their pious enthusiasm hasten to pay the fines and make good the salaries out of their own pockets.

Most of those Bishops who adopt the policy of passive resistance, although they under protest for while not recognizing the right of the government either to inspect the seminaries or to control the appointment of priests, are evidently for the most part acting upon a scheme of delay. They are waiting for something to turn up, perhaps for some immediate divine interposition in behalf of the persecuted church. Such interposition has been predicted or rather promised by the infallible Pontiff and therefore the quiet patience with which it is looked for by a considerable portion of the Catholic population of Germany, although not unanimous, is evidently natural. Notonly in Germany but in France also, the devout retain in vivid memory, the mystical strain in which His Holiness prophesied the downfall of the Colossus of the North who had so audaciously and impiously laid his hand on sacred things, and they point to signs which seem to them to indicate that the prophesy is already being fulfilled. And more than fulfilled, indeed, the prophet himself will before long be restored to more than the temporal dominion from which he has fallen. We need not say that the significance of the signs referred to is not clear or striking to the Protestant mind. But those who perceive no obvious or pertinent meaning in the signs are solemnly reminded of the teachings of history on the subject, as expounded by LOUIS PHILIPPE and M. THIERS. When the citizen king was advised by one of his Ministers to break with the Holy See, he is reported to have said: "If you can show me a single example in all history of a dynasty, a family, a man, which the Pope, and had no reason to regret it, I will take your advice." And when M. THIERS was, some years ago, asked by the French Empress, what he thought of the Roman Question? he is said to have replied: "I confess that I am not a good Catholic; but I am a Papist, because I have learned from history that all who have eaten of the Pope have died of it." Whether any importance attaches to this view, there is certainly enough in history to impart immense interest to the struggle between Papistry and Politics now going on in Europe generally, and especially in Germany.

ABOUT THE BALLOON.

It is no doubt true that Americans dearly love "a sensation," and the sensation of the present week is the ambition of Chicago, Boston, four persons in "a balloon bound for Europe." On Wednesday evening, the time set for the event, the inflation of the balloon was prevented by the state of the weather, and the departure of the adventurers was necessarily postponed. Only a favorable condition of the atmosphere is waited for, and before what we now write can appear in print the momentous event may have taken place. During many weeks the adventure has been a subject of newspaper comment and social discussion, and many persons who in the beginning regarded the attempt as a piece of mere foolhardy daring have come to regard it with more indulgence or even with some sympathy. Both views of the enterprise are susceptible of easy explanation. In the history of ballooning there is nothing to warrant rational expectation of success in the project. While the prevalence of a steady easterly current in the upper regions of the atmosphere may be considered as pretty well established, little else is known about it. Its elevation, velocity and range are all matters of conjecture, and while the investigation of these points and of others connected with them, is a legitimate scientific interest, perhaps worthy of enthusiastic pursuit, both sense and science suggest the expediency and economy of selecting the method of inquiry which involves least peril to human life, and the clearest promise of success. With vast continents to operate upon, with one-fourth of the globe *terra firma*, why choose the ocean? By taking the unstable element as the foundation of his aerial voyage, the investigator not only exposes himself to needless danger but incurs the risk that if he perish his notes of observation and discovery will certainly perish with him.

Professor WISE'S confidence in the feasibility of the project is plainly enthusiasm inspired by life-long devotion to a peculiar pursuit. And his enthusiasm is intensified by the belief that a balloon voyage across the Atlantic would be followed by a revolution in the commercial relations of the world. But no man of eminence in science has professed adhesion to Mr. WISE'S views. Those who predict an easy and comfortable trip through the air as a common highway are for the most part persons more familiar with the splendid results of modern progress than with the grounds on which *they rest or with the processes* by which they were arrived at.

On the other hand, in view of the amazing discoveries and inventions of the last half century, few are prepared to limit the achievement of human genius and audacity, and therefore few, if any, have dared either positively to question the success of Wise attempt or to frown upon the sensational manoeuvres by which it has been forwarded. Thinking that the enterprise may be a national triumph after all, many of the original skeptics, as intimated already, have even applauded the spirit and liberality of the metropolitan company which, for the promotion of its own pecuniary ends, has taken advantage of the Professor's simple-minded devotion to his art. They, in common with the general public, have taken for granted the purpose of the company to do all in its power for the safety and success of the aeronauts. It was assumed that the balloon would be of the best possible material, and that literally no needful precaution or provision would be omitted to insure the object of the attempt. It is therefore painful to learn that the balloon is made, not of silk, the only trustworthy material, but of cotton sheeting muslin! As this material is varnished with linseed oil to render it impervious to the gas, the balloon by the absorption of oil is made about four times heavier than it would be if constructed of silk. Moreover, the balloon is or is to be inflated—not with pure hydrogen gas but with the common street lamp gas, carbureted hydrogen. By the use of both these articles instead of better the chances of failure and the peril of the adventurers are indefinitely increased. Of course economy is the motive. We do not understand those who object with the balloon, but feels bound to fulfil his engagement. In case of failure, these defects in the balloon and apparatus can be urged, not only in explanation of failure, but in favor of another attempt; the only apology we can think of for the policy which has permitted such defects to exist.

THE LIBEL LAW.

The Altoona *Tribune*, in giving the result of a trial for libel in Cambria county, says that "the law of libel is imperfectly understood by the masses of the people" in Pennsylvania. If so, whose fault is it? The press of the State has continually and continuously misrepresented it; and if the people have been led to believe that under our law it was impossible, in a suit for libel, to give the truth in evidence, the fault of the misunderstanding rests with those who have indulged so freely in the misrepresentation.

Our Constitution provides that "in prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of public officers, or men acting in a public capacity, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof shall be given in evidence," and this has been the law of the State for a generation. It did not need a judicial trial to bring out this fact; but it seems, from the surprise shown by some of the papers at the ruling of Judge DEAN in this Cambria suit, that they were never before aware of such a Constitutional provision.

The case referred to was that of the Commonwealth *vs.* the publishers of the Johnstown *Tribune*, indicted for libel in saying of JOSEPH STRAYER, a candidate for Burgess of Johnstown, that he was "incompetent, ignorant and corrupt." The Commonwealth admitted that the words "incompetent and ignorant" implied no moral turpitude, and so the case hinged on the one word, "corrupt:" and Judge DEAN allowed the defendants to put in all the evidence they had to present to prove the truth of the charge that STRAYER was "corrupt." On this point Judge DEAN said:

"There were two candidates for the office of Burgess, the prosecutor, Joseph Strayer, and Wm. H. Rose, Esq. The defendants advocated the election of Mr. Rose; this was their right, and they could publish in their newspaper anything concerning the candidates to whom they were opposed, which was proper for public information, that was true, or which they, as cautious and prudent men, had reasonable grounds for believing true. They would, not have had the right to so publish the truth of and concerning the character of a private citizen, and thereby injure him; but Burgess Strayer being a candidate before the people for a public office, they had a right to publish for the information of the people that which indicated unfitness, either moral or intellectually, for the position. And they had a right to do this, even though the publication injured his reputation and exposed him to public odium."

"It therefore appears," says the Altoona *Tribune*, with a degree of surprise that this had not been known to it before, "to be absolutely determined that a newspaper has the *right* to criticise the record or inquire into the common reputation of a public official or a candidate for public office; *provided* that what is published in the columns thereof appears to be reasonably well based in truth and is given for the information of the public,' and is *not* the growth of a malicious desire to injure the reputation of such official or candidate." Most certainly. That has been the well settled law of Pennsylvania for a long period, and no doubt of it ever existed in the public mind until a clamor against the libel laws was got up by those who want to be privileged to libel whoever they please without legal responsibility.

RUSSIAN COMPETITION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

MR. FREDERICK HECKER, with whose character and career many readers are familiar, and who is spending the summer in Germany, is giving earnest attention to the great Farmer Question in all its relations. He is himself an Illinois farmer, and is in other respects well qualified to study and discuss the subject. From his letters in several German-American journals it appears that the farmers of Germany are hardly less troubled about their condition and prospects than are the farmers of the Western United States. Some of their causes of complaint are peculiar to themselves, while others are common to them and to Americans of the same occupation. In some parts of the country laborers can not be obtained at any wages, and in general wages bear no reasonable proportion to the prices of agricultural products. Hence in some places, Holstein for example, the cultivation of grain has been given up by many, who have converted their farms into pastures for the raising of cattle. The chief causes of this state of things are the immense military force kept up in time of peace, withdrawing 450,000 men from the work of production, the rush of laborers from the country into the cities for the sake of better wages, and last, though not least, emigration. The consequence is that only those farmers prosper or get on with comfort who have sufficient working force within their own families.

MR. HECKER finds also that German farmers are much concerned in view of the competition, actual and prospective, of Russian farmers in the grain and meat markets; a fact destined, he thinks, to be nearly as important to American as to German agriculturists. Even now the grain of the lower Danube is compelling the abandonment of grain-growing in Germany, and the competition is merely beginning. What, then, will be the effect not only upon Germans but upon the grain-growers of western America when the railroad system of the lower Danube and of western and southern Russia shall have been completed? The fact is certain that by the completion of these railroads millions upon millions of acres of fertile land will be enabled to pour their products into the markets of central and western Europe. Thus a railroad from Tiflis to Poti on the Black Sea is an outlet for the products of rich Mingrelia and Georgia. By means of a railroad along the Caspian in connection with available river navigation, another most fruitful territory of still greater extent will before long be opened up to European commerce. And so forth. No one can glance at the system of intercommunication, contrived by Russia, of which the foregoing are parts, without perceiving the immense commercial and economical results involved in the plan. With the commerce thus to be opened up, America, in its present condition as regards labor, cannot compete, says MR. HECKER, and Americans cannot too soon meditate other ways and means. The remedy must be found in a home market and domestic consumption corresponding to the abundance of production.

THE REPUBLICANS OF PHILADELPHIA.

An unwarranted attempt is now making to create an impression among the Republicans of the State that the Republicans in Philadelphia are acting in bad faith toward Judge GORDON, and intend to sacrifice him because the Democratic candidate for Supreme Judge is a Philadelphian. There is no justification for this. The Republicans of Philadelphia have done nothing to warrant it, and the attempt to put them in that false attitude does them a gross wrong. Every Republican paper in Philadelphia has responded heartily to Judge GORDON'S nomination, the local organization is a unit in his favor, and every one of the Republican leaders is committed to his support. Col. WM. B. MANN, who is cited in some quarters as leading off in favor of Judge LUDLOW, is open and outspoken in his support of Judge GORDON, as are all the other leading and active Republicans of that city.

There are, beyond doubt, a few Republican lawyers at the Philadelphia bar who will vote for Judge LUDLOW, from personal considerations alone; but they are not active men, politically, nor does their action in any way involve the Republican organization in Philadelphia. There are Democratic lawyers, also, in the West, who will vote for Judge GORDON; and if each of these candidates is to be regarded as worthy of the confidence of his party, it must naturally be expected of each that he will be popular enough, where he is best known, to pick up, here and there, a vote from his political opponents. It does not follow, however, that this personal popularity is any evidence of the existence of political treachery.

One of our exchanges, in giving currency to this report against our Philadelphia friends, says that the purpose of it is to swap off GORDON to get votes for MACKEY. It so happens, however, that Mr. MACKEY is in no need of such help, and would not permit its use, if there were. He and his friends are acting in good faith, and his election is so certain that there could be no possible temptation in to such a course. Let our friends throughout the State rest assured that the Republicans of Philadelphia are standing as a unit by the State ticket; that they will do their level best to elect Judge GORDON; and that there is not the slightest warrant for suspecting them, or doubting their fidelity.

THE STATE TICKET.

There is a very general feeling on the part of the Republicans in this county, as well as in the State, that the election of the Republican State and county ticket is certain and secure. In this feeling we share, fully. We entertain no doubt of the result. But there is always a lurking danger in over-confidence, and the Republicans of Pennsylvania are just now feeling a little too confident. No victory was ever gained without a fight, and no ticket can be elected without work; and if the confidence that has taken possession of our people, betrays them into a neglect of the usual appliances of a political campaign—organization and work—it will assuredly mislead and destroy them.

The party in this State was never so united and harmonious as now, and never had before it so clear a prospect of success; but union and harmony do not necessarily lead to a cessation of work. Our only danger lies in trusting too much to political party beyond the power to do. Let our friends be deluded into believing that the usual energy and activity are not needed. They *are* needed, and we cannot succeed without them.

We appeal to our friends to wake up from their sleep, and prepare themselves for the struggle. It will not be a long, or a bitter, or a difficult one; but it will be a struggle, nevertheless, and it will require us to put forth our strength. We have no fears of the result; but we insist upon it that our friends everywhere shall be in the active use of the legitimate means they possess for accomplishing a victory on which their hearts are set.

POLITICAL.

State.

The Republicans of Sullivan county have placed the following ticket in the field: For Treasurer—M. A. Rogers; Commissioner—Dr. W. J. Randall; Jury Commissioner—Richard Riddle; District Attorney—E. N. Dunham; Auditor—A. R. Scoreman.

The batters from the Republican Convention of Huntingdon county, headed by A. L. Guss, met the other day and nominated the following ticket: Senator—John Irwin, Jr., of centre county; Assembly—David Dunn, of Huntingdon; Treasurer—George M. Green; County Commissioner—Wm. P. Gilliland; Jury Commissioner—A. Wesley Wright; Director of Poor—Jacob Musser; Auditor—W. H. Fleener.

The Democratic County Convention of Mercer county met at Mercer on Monday last. The following ticket was nominated: Assembly, James A. Stranahan, Esq.; Treasurer, George D. Kelly; Commissioner, J. M. Gallower; Poor Director, D. B. Larimer; Auditor, T. E. Horter; Jury Commissioner, Morris Leech. Resolutions indorsing the State Convention, denouncing the salary grab and pledging support to the State and county tickets were adopted.

The proceedings of the Luzerne county Democratic Convention, on the 9th inst., were anything but harmonious, the excited members at times coming almost to blows. The meeting opened with a fight over the choice of a presiding officer, and the bad blood at that time engendered cropping out all the way through until adjournment. Candidates were numerous and the party badly distracted. The seventh ballot for Assembly taken at about one o'clock on the morning of the 9th, resulted in the choice of the following candidates: Dr. D. Kressler, of Coningham; M. Cramon, Wilkesbarre; T. Loftus, Oliphant, and C. Moore, Wilkesbarre. The Convention then took a recess.

Hon. Butler B. Strang, of Tioga county, is spoken of as the possible Republican candidate for Governor after Hartranft. He is one of the ablest men in the State, and would do credit to that or any other position in the gift of the people.

At the meeting of the Labor Reform Convention of Schuylkill county, held in Pottsville on the 9th, the following ticket was nominated: State Senator, F. A. Herwig; Assembly, John W. Morgan; Reg., J. F. Welsh. Treasurer, Mr. Barlow, also nominated by the Republicans.

The Democrats of Dauphin county met in convention in Harrisburg on Tuesday and placed in nomination the following ticket: Assembly—William B. Wilson, Dr. J. W. Smith; Prothonotary—William K. Verbeke; Treasurer—George Shoup; County Commissioner—P. S. Stine; Register of Wills—Augustus Reel; County Solicitor—Wallace DeWitt; Poor Director—Jacob Huffington; Jury Commissioner—George D. Mayer; Auditor—William Bodenharn. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the local option law as unconstitutional, and requiring the candidates for Assembly to give a written pledge that they would, in case of their election, use their best endeavors to secure its repeal.

John Cessna, Chairman of the Bedford County Republican Committee, is administering some severe and very nauseous doses to the Democracy. In his last bulletin he shows that under Democratic rule the taxes of the people have grown from $10,000 to $100,000 per year, the increase last year having been fully twenty-five per cent.

The Fulton county Republican Convention has instructed for John Mellwaine, Esq., for the nomination for Senate. The district composed of Fulton and Snyder, Union, Northumberland and Perry. Four candidates presented themselves in the district, and on the fortieth ballot the conferees from Perry and Snyder, Union Pennsylvania or Iowa, the latter voted for Col. Wagenseller, thus nominating him. Col. Wagenseller was a faithful soldier during the rebellion, discharging his duty in the face of the enemy with bravery, and deserves, as he will no doubt receive, the united support of the Republicans in the district. First, he is now represented in the Senate by a Democrat, but the Republican majority at the last election was over eight hundred and the Republicans have it now in their power to redeem it. The Colonel will make an attentive Senator, and will represent the wishes of his constituents with ability.

During last week, we conversed with men from all parts of the county. The political outlook is rather better than we expected. In most or the towns our party is standing solidly by the ticket with the chance of help from Democrats who are disgusted with the betrayal of their quack managers and determined to rebuke them by voting the Republican ticket or not voting at all. They say their party in this county is virtually disbanded and they propose to make their own party associations hereafter.—*Warren Mail.*

The next session of the Legislature will close the terms of a number of our most experienced legislators. Senator Wallace will have served nine years consecutively; Senator E. W. Davis seven years in the House and three years in the Senate; Senator McClure three years in the House and six in the Senate; Senator Graham nine years in the Senate; Senator McSherry two years in the House and six in the Senate, and General White eleven years in the Senate. The terms of all these gentlemen expire with the next session.

A call for an Independent Republican Convention in Delaware county, to meet on the 18th inst., has been issued, signed by James F. Serrill, Dr. E. Harvey, Charles Johnson, Wm. Rhodes and Tower, to send speakers to oppose the regular Republican candidates for Senator (Mr. Cooper) and Assembly (Mr. Ballard) with independent candidates. It is announced that Hon. H. Jones Brooke declines to run for Senator, and will support Mr. Cooper, the regular nominee.

Following is the full ticket nominated by the Democracy of Luzerne county: Assembly, Dr. Cressler, Michael Crogan, O. E. Moore; T. W. Loftus; Prothonotary, S. W. Trimmer; Clerk of Courts, Michael Zimmerman; District Attorney, J. D. Collings; Treasurer, Isaac Livingston; Commissioner, Nicholas Seibert; Jury Commissioner, Col. Peter Ingpehr; Auditor, Thomas Cosgrove. Resolutions denouncing all laws passed by the Republican Congress and Legislature; indorsing the action of the Democratic State Convention; denouncing all attempts to debauch the ballot (!); and declaring that the nominees of the county Convention for Assembly are just as fitting and fully capable to make pledges binding them to special legislation of any kind. The second day's proceedings were as disorderly and full of bitterness as those of the first day. Taken all in all, the party is anything but harmonious in Luzerne county; and if the Republicans make judicious nominations they stand a fair chance of electing their ticket.

The Philadelphia *Press* is "glad to note the nomination by eight counties conventions, in the legislature, by the Democracy of Luzerne county." The decent men in the party in Luzerne would, without doubt, repudiate the disgraceful work of the Court House Ring, which has robbed the county. Mr. Wright; but men of another stamp controlled the conventions, and chose people of their own ilk for the purpose.

The Scranton *Republican* says that the Democracy of that county were not impartial in the distribution of the offices at the late convention, the lower end of the county getting seven of the principal places on the ticket, and the upper end two. It continues: "If we are to credit Democratic testimony, then at least four of the nominations given to the lower end of the county were bought and paid for in advance. Enough to say that openly alleged by prominent Democrats that not less less than one-third of the delegates in the convention were in the habit of selling their votes, and their vote at from $10 to $40, the price ranging higher than the value for ordinary occasions in consequence. In the contest for one office a "middle man" was employed by one of the candidates, who agreed to be liberally rewarded for the job by contract. It is said he made a good thing of it—being able to buy delegates at considerable less than his principal was got up by those who want to be privileged to libel whoever they please without legal responsibility.

Ohio.

Married in Hartford, Licking county, O., L. Graves, aged 93, to Mrs. Baker, aged 72.

The Vinton county *Record* says: Many ore veins are being opened out, and new discoveries true ore are being made every day. Barnet Hook laid a very fine specimen of limestone ore on our table this week.

Morrison R. Waite, of Toledo, the presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention, and who was one of the counselors at Geneva, was lately dined at Niantic, Connecticut, by his old friends of that place.

Charles Wingert, of Crawford county, left Bucyrus one evening to return to his home in the country. The next morning he was found in the road, with a a handkerchief round his head, in a delirious condition. It was found that he had been shot in the head, but how or by whom is a mystery. He is still living, but unable to give any account of the affair.

The assets of the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, or $415,666 47; the liabilities, $88,239 00. Rev. Fales H. Newhall, D. D., the President elect of the institution is a man of noted ability. Rev. L. D. McCabe, D. D., is *pro tem.* President.

From the Ashtabula *Telegraph* we see that a gentleman, quite infirm, named Marshall Brown, living with Mr. Henry Bissell, of Jefferson, was sent down to drive or fetch the cows from the pasture, Wednesday, and not returning in due time, he was sought for and found in the field with his head split open by a ball. The animal was not known to be vicious.

Akron has had another sensation. Louis Fisher suspected his wife's fidelity, and raised a row. She proposed to pay him $200 for a release from all matrimonial engagements. The proposition was accepted, part of the money paid, the children put out and the bargain perfected. The wife of the gentleman who is supposed to have furnished Mrs. F. the purchase money is cowhided her husband, and everything is sadly mixed.

A Highland county youth "went West" to escape fulfilling a marriage contract with a woman old enough to be his mother; but the Highland female followed, overtook him in an Illinois town, and led him to the altar as gentle as a lamb.

Extensive preparations are being made for a reunion of the boys educated at the Soldiers Reform School, at the farm near Lancaster, October 11. The institution has turned out 1,200 graduates, many of whom are now well-to-do citizens of this and many other States.

J. R. Stephens, Sr., a printer, who left home about two years ago, has not been heard of. When last heard from he was in Chicago, Ill., two weeks previous to the great fire, and was burned out since which time nothing has been heard of him. Any information regarding him will be thankfully received by his family. Address, Mrs. Hannah Stephens, Middleport, Ohio.

The old lady who is such a remarkable knitter lives in Brown county. The Ripley *Bee* says: "Mrs. Tetter, mother of Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. James Reynolds, was eighty-five years of age yesterday. She is in excellent health and retains her vigor of mind and body to a wonderful degree, and can knit more stockings in a month than nine out of ten of the young ladies of to-day could knit in a year. She made, He referred to *Congressional Globe* reports for proof, and in relation to one withdrawal of his motion to strike out of the salary bill, so as to exclude Congressmen from increased salaries, said that Thurman